

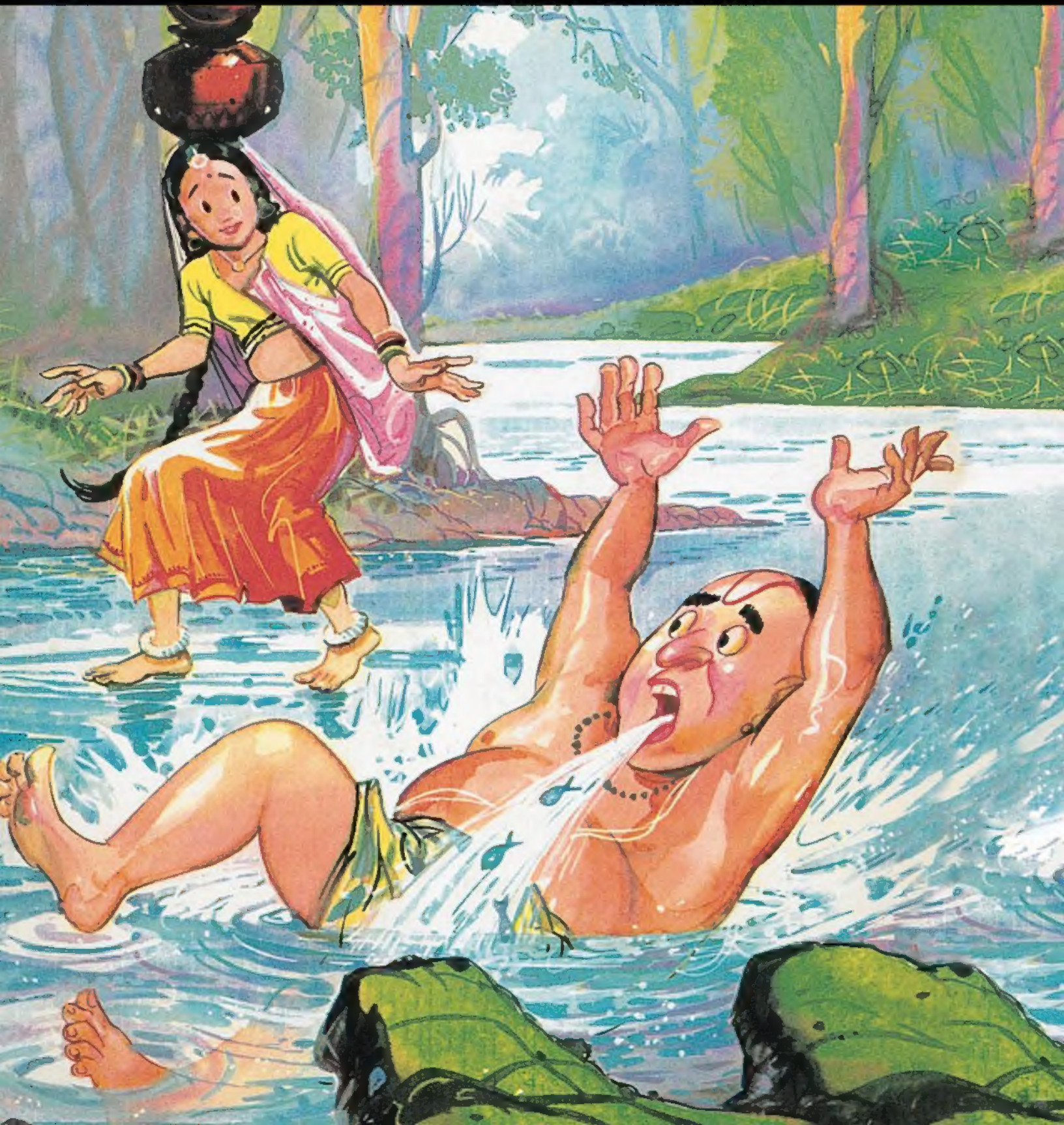


# THE PANDIT AND THE MILKMAID

TALES TOLD BY SRI RAMAKRISHNA

Vol 646

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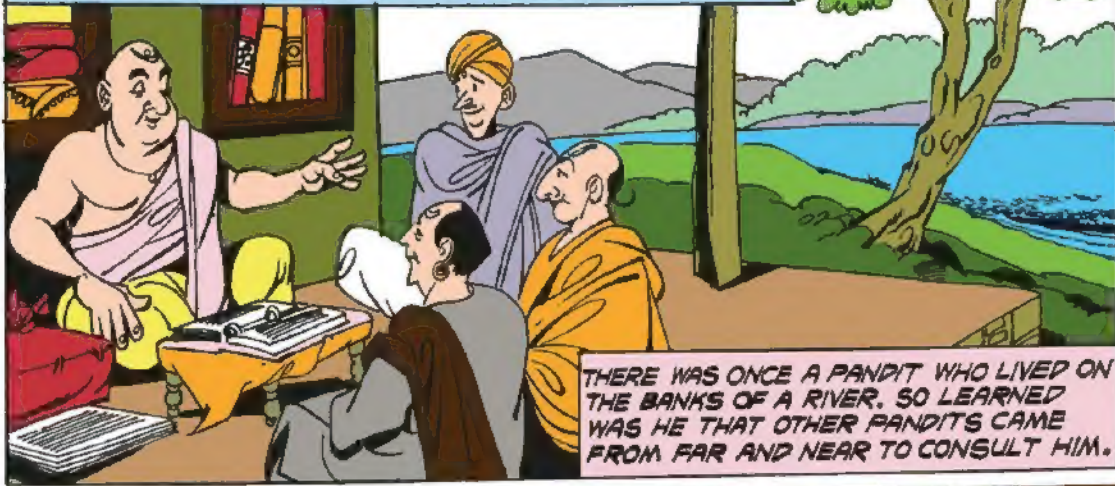
**Illustrations**  
Pratap Mulick

**Editor**  
Anant Pai

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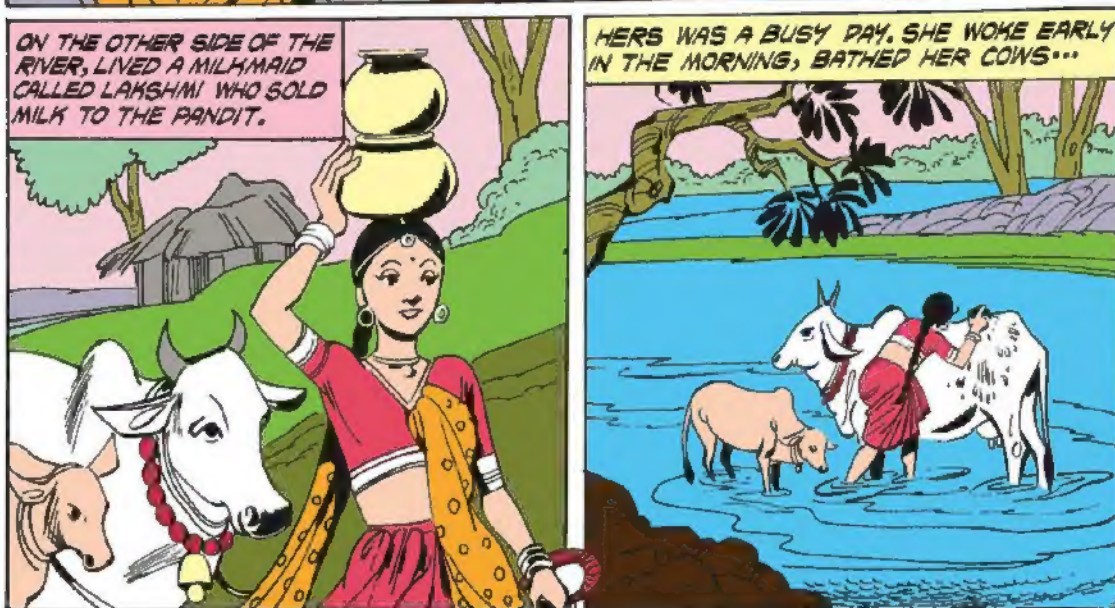
## THE PANDIT AND THE MILKMAID



THERE WAS ONCE A PANDIT WHO LIVED ON THE BANKS OF A RIVER. SO LEARNED WAS HE THAT OTHER PANDIT'S CAME FROM FAR AND NEAR TO CONSULT HIM.



A GREATLY RESPECTED MAN INDEED WAS PANDITJI!

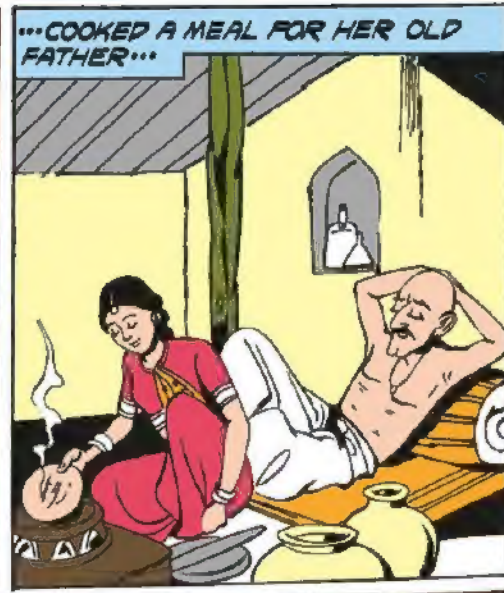
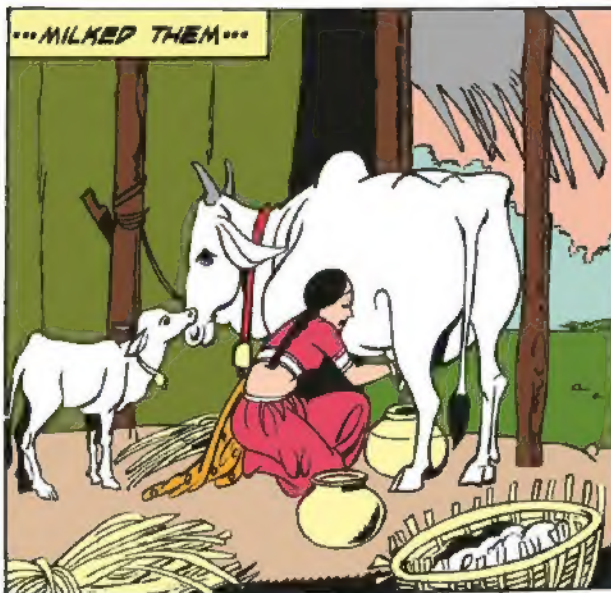


ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER, LIVED A MILKMAID CALLED LAKSHMI WHO SOLD MILK TO THE PANDIT.

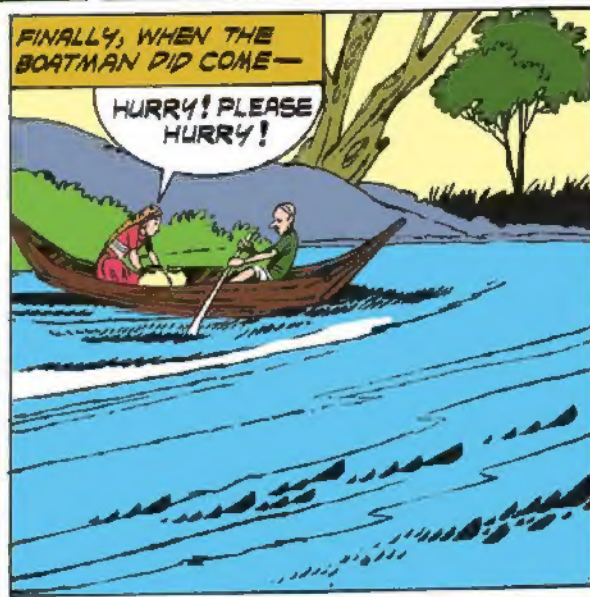
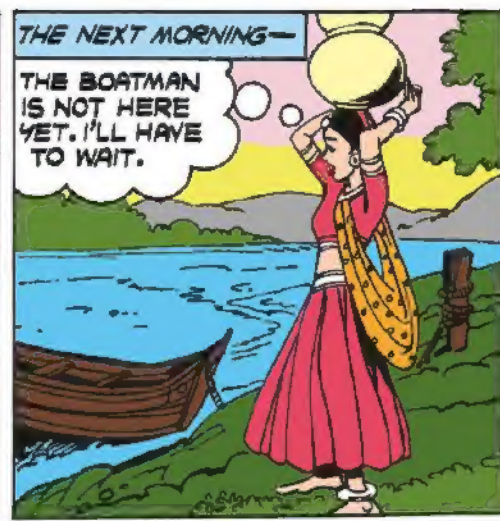
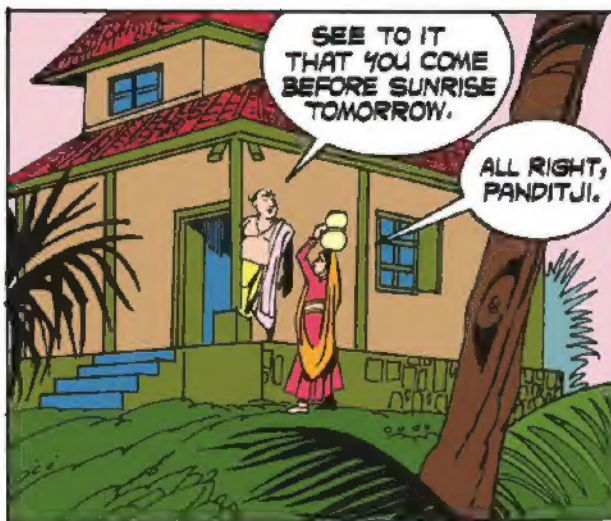
HERS WAS A BUSY DAY. SHE WOKE EARLY IN THE MORNING, BATHED HER COWS...







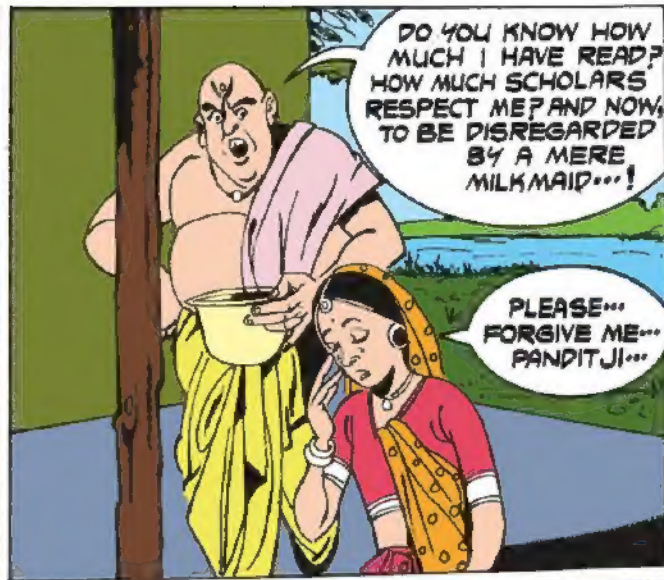






THE PANDIT WAS IN A BAD MOOD THAT DAY.

DON'T GIVE ME EXCUSES! HOW DARE YOU DISREGARD MY WISHES! DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?



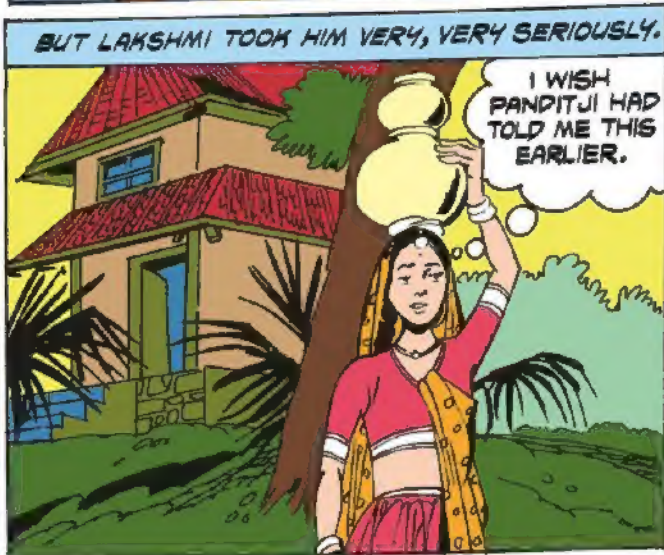
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I HAVE READ? HOW MUCH SCHOLARS RESPECT ME? AND NOW, TO BE DISREGARDED BY A MERE MILKMAID...

PLEASE... FORGIVE ME... PANDITJI...



PEOPLE CROSS THE OCEAN OF LIFE BY CHANTING THE NAME OF HARI. AND YOU CAN'T MANAGE EVEN A SMALL RIVER.

THE PANDIT UTTERED THESE WORDS, JUST FOR THE SAKE OF UTTERING THEM.



BUT LAKSHMI TOOK HIM VERY, VERY SERIOUSLY.

I WISH PANDITJI HAD TOLD ME THIS EARLIER.



THE NEXT DAY—

PANDITJI, SEE, I'VE COME EARLY.

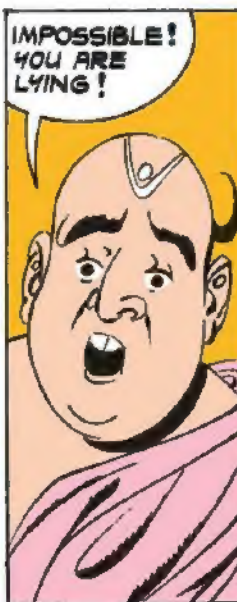
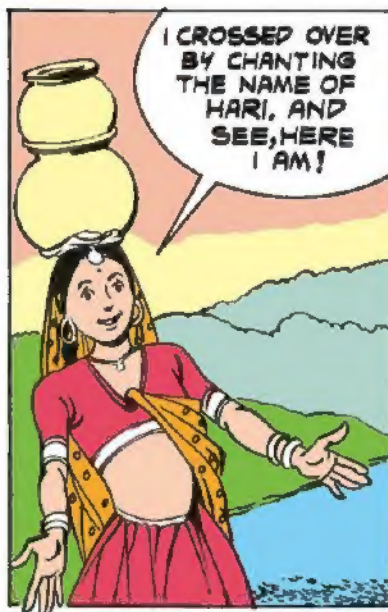
GOOD! BUT... I SEE NO BOAT! HOW DID YOU COME?



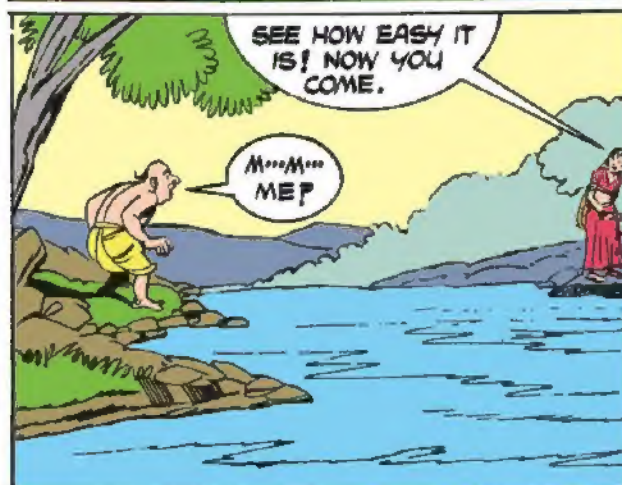
THE WAY YOU TOLD ME TO, PANDITJI.

THE WAY I TOLD YOU? WHAT WAY IS THAT?

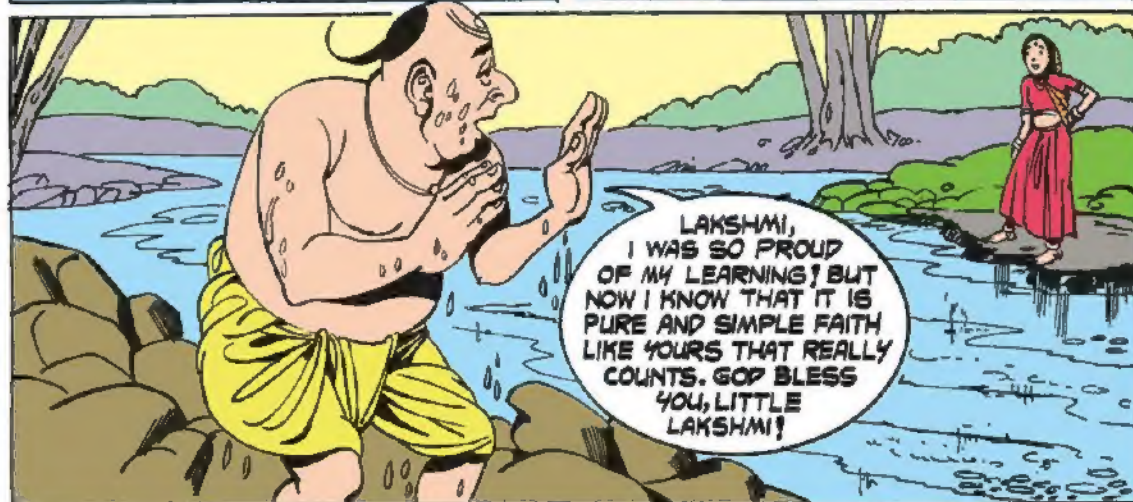
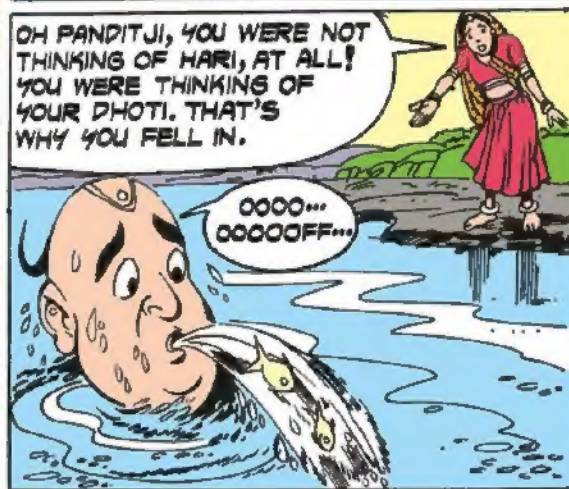




LAKSHMI LED THE PANDIT DOWN TO THE RIVER.

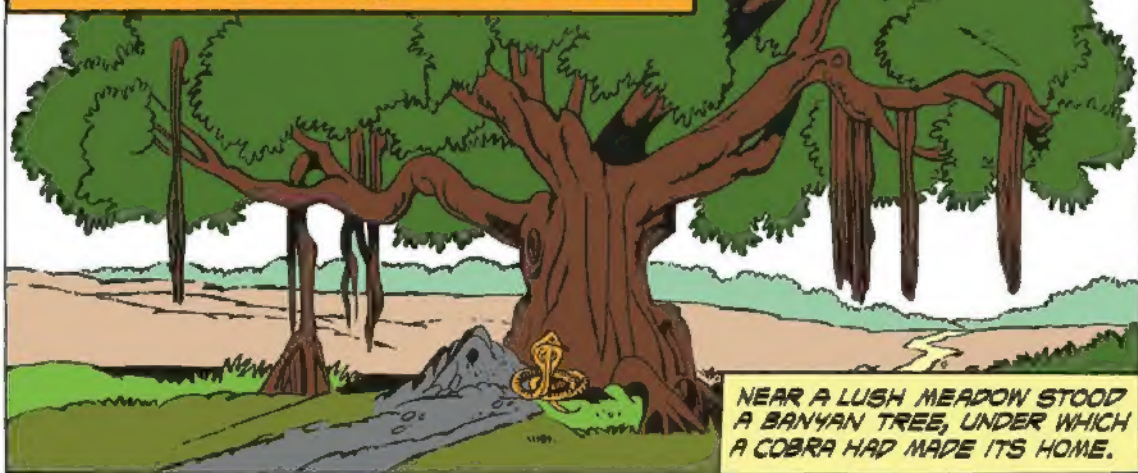








## THE COBRA AND THE MONK

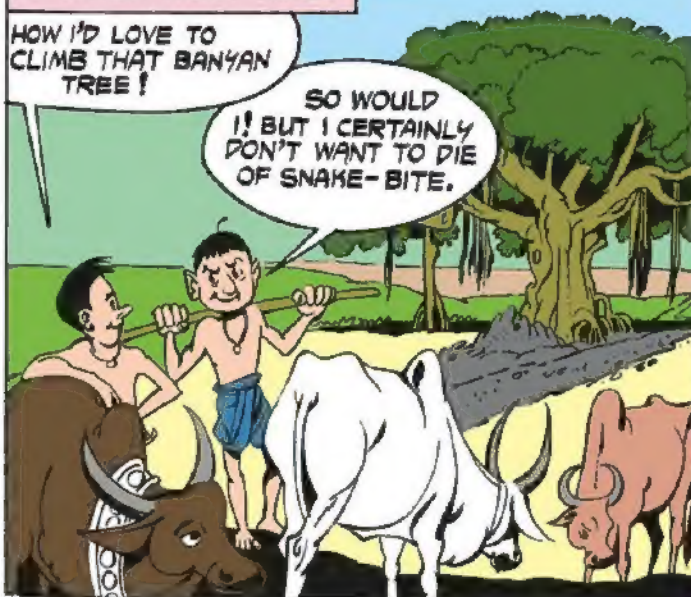


NEAR A LUSH MEADOW STOOD A BANYAN TREE, UNDER WHICH A COBRA HAD MADE ITS HOME.

COWHERDS OFTEN CAME THERE TO GRAZE THEIR COWS.

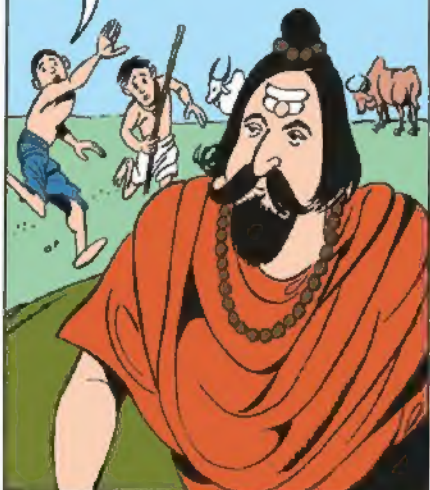
HOW I'D LOVE TO CLIMB THAT BANYAN TREE!

SO WOULD I! BUT I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO DIE OF SNAKE-BITE.



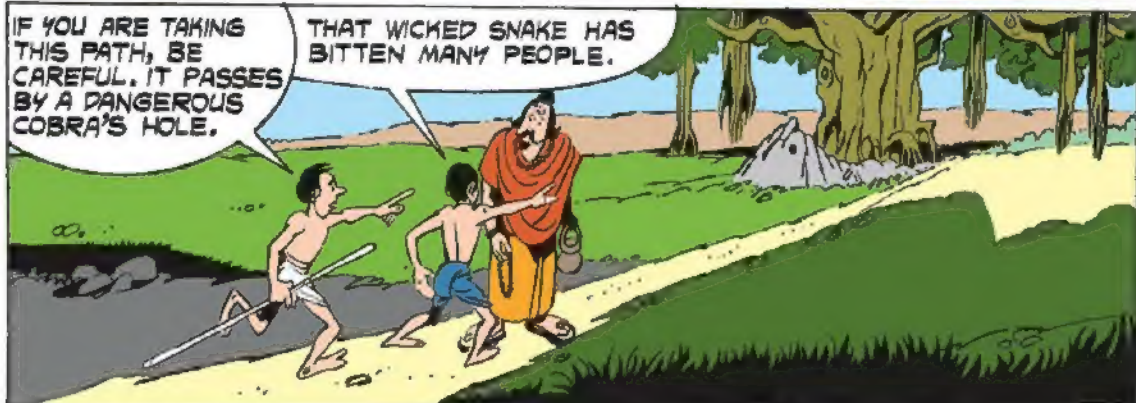
ONE DAY, A MONK PASSED THAT WAY.

WAIT, HOLY SIR.

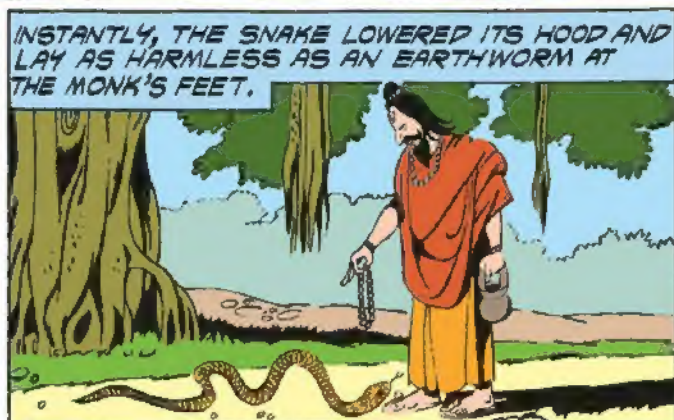
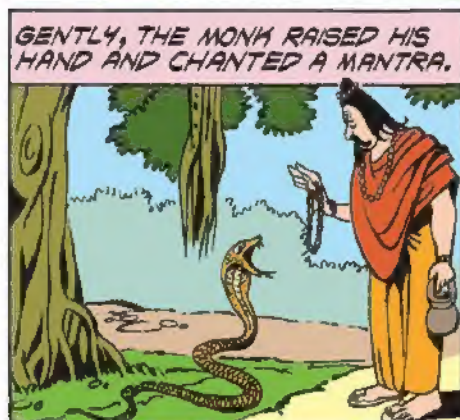
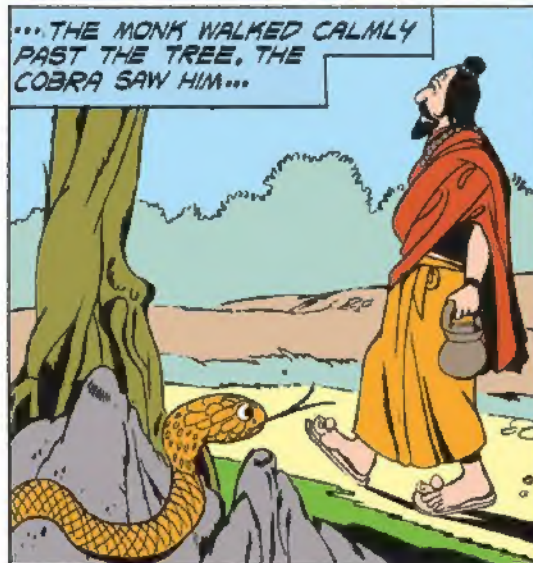
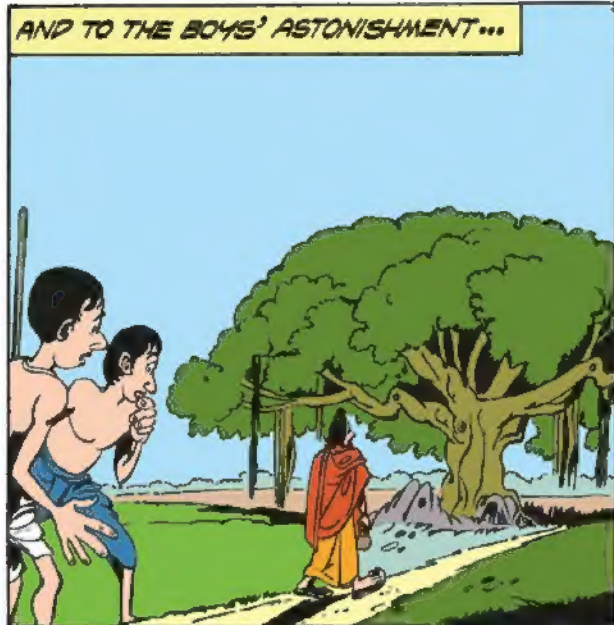
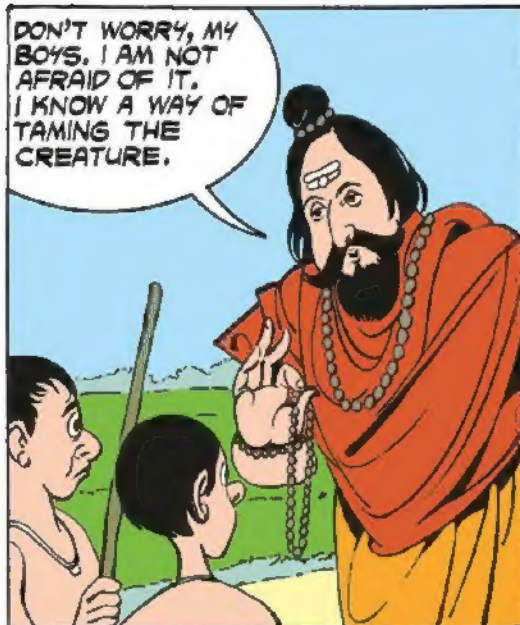


IF YOU ARE TAKING THIS PATH, BE CAREFUL. IT PASSES BY A DANGEROUS COBRA'S HOLE.

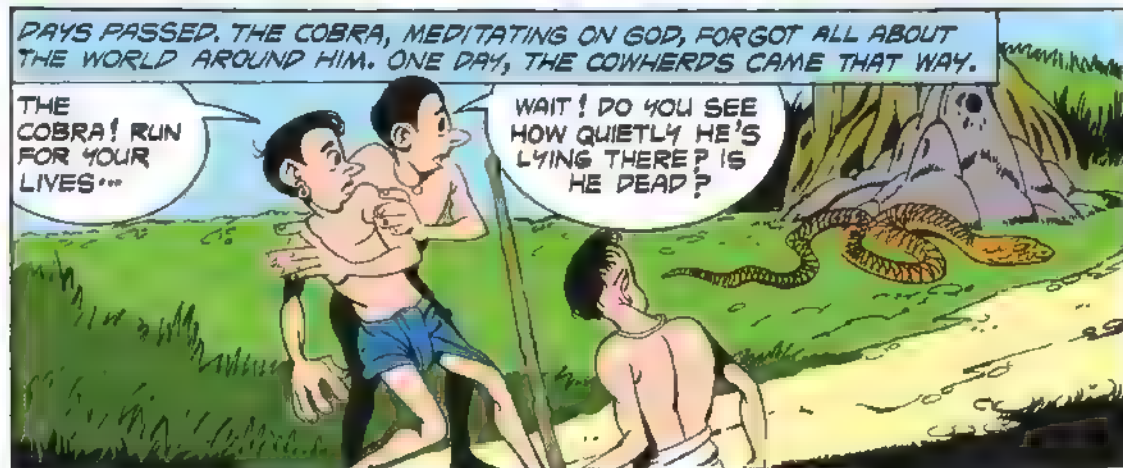
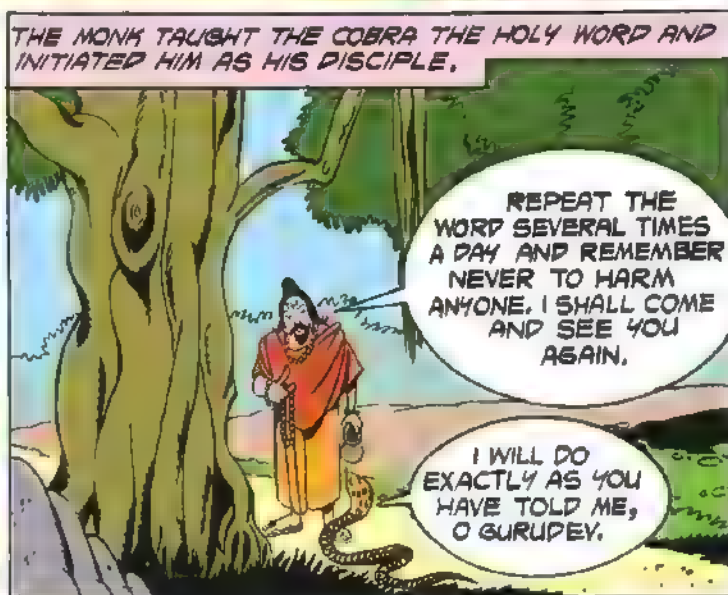
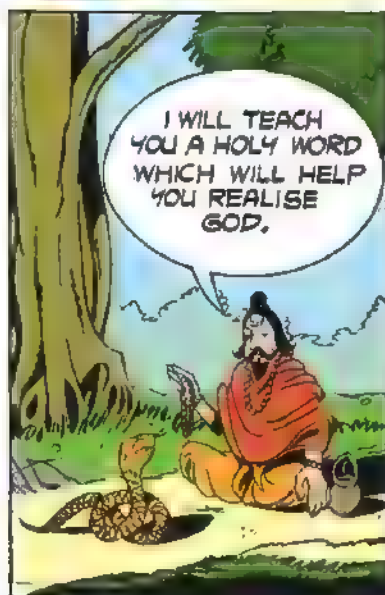
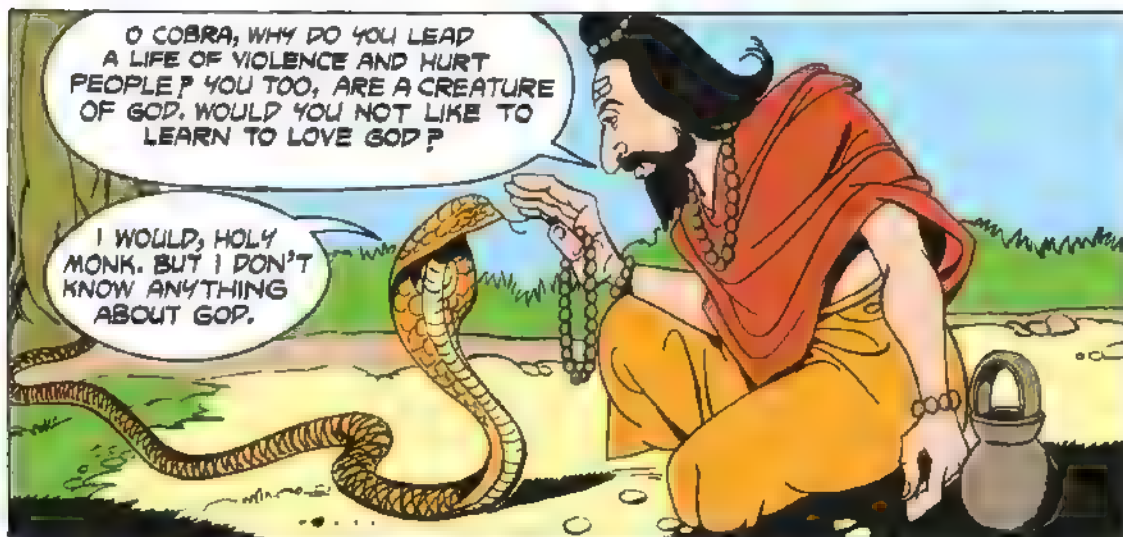
THAT WICKED SNAKE HAS BITTEN MANY PEOPLE.



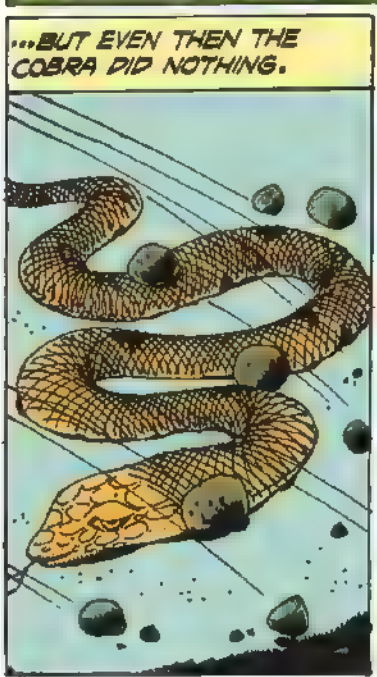
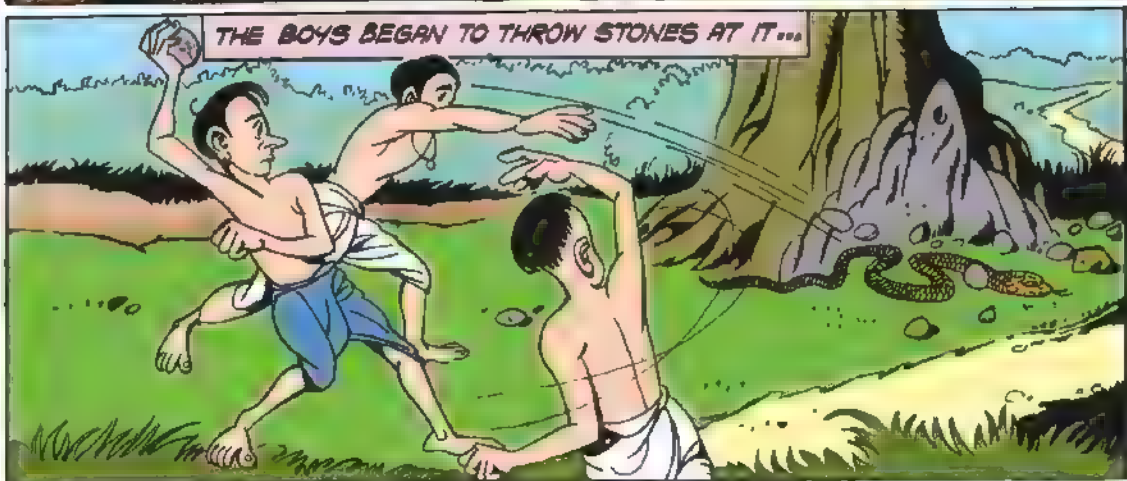
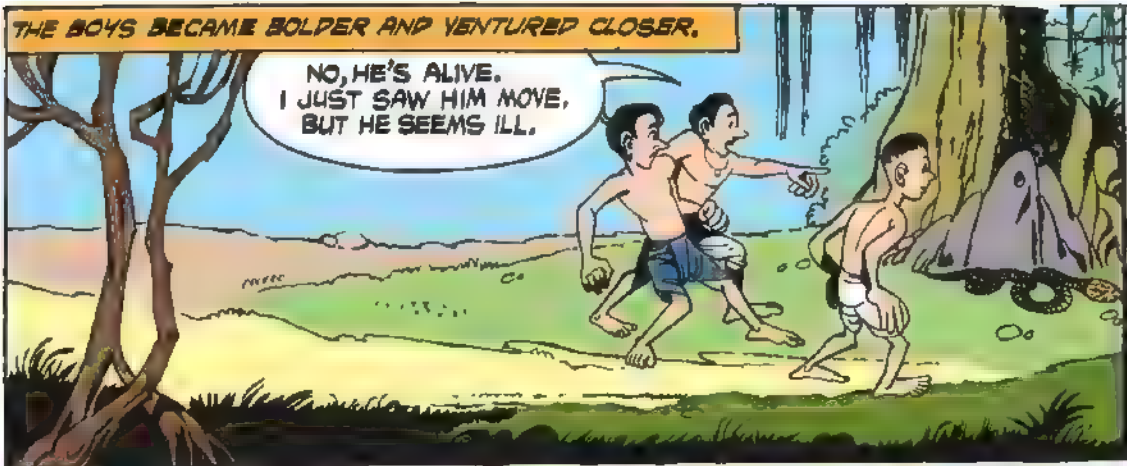






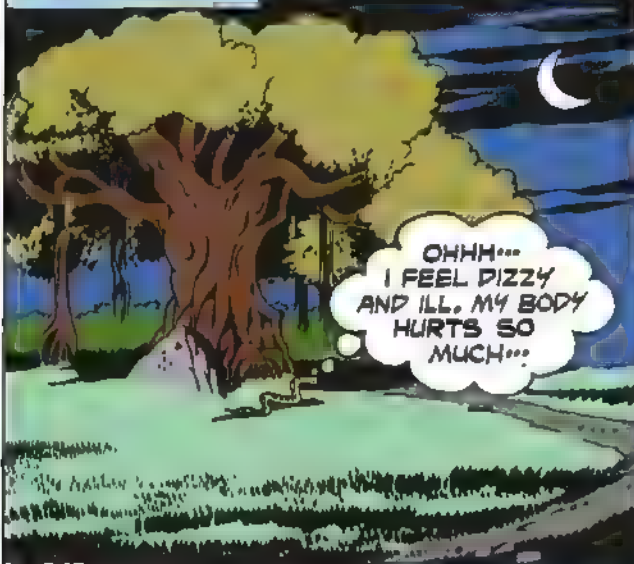






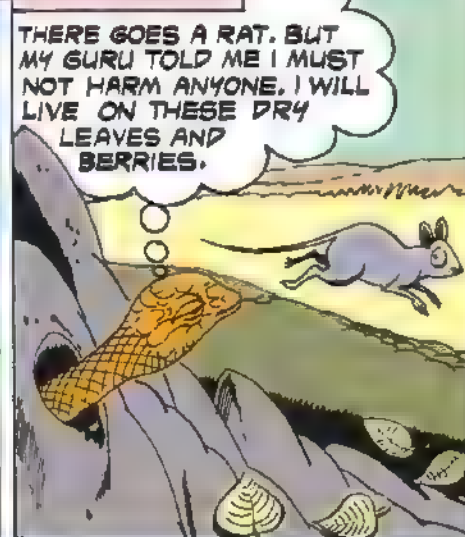


THAT NIGHT, IT SLOWLY RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS.



OHhh...  
I FEEL DIZZY  
AND ILL. MY BODY  
HURTS SO  
MUCH...

DRAGGING ITSELF PAINFULLY TO ITS HOLE, IT MANAGED TO LIVE ON SOMEHOW.



THERE GOES A RAT. BUT  
MY GURU TOLD ME I MUST  
NOT HARM ANYONE. I WILL  
LIVE ON THESE DRY  
LEAVES AND  
BERRIES.

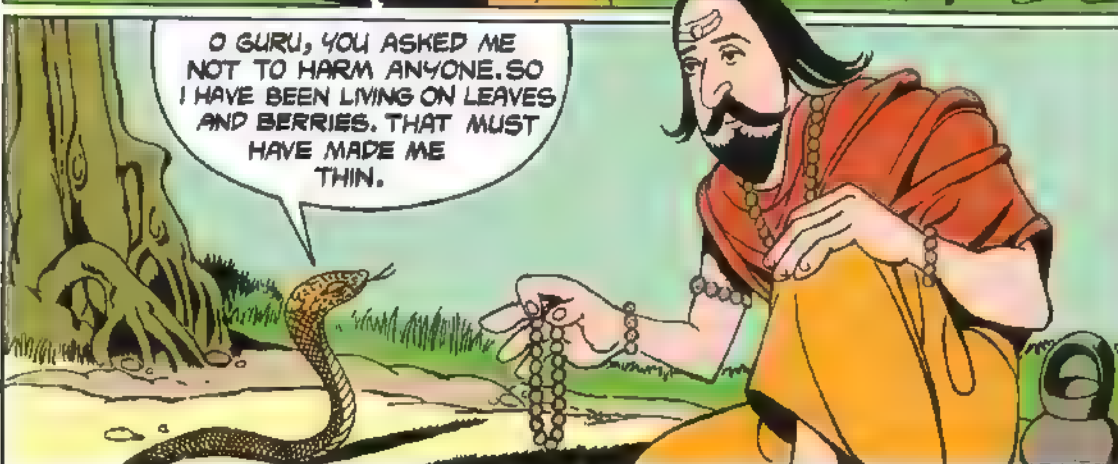
THE COBRA SOON BECAME THIN AND SAUNT.



ONE DAY, THE SAME MONK CAME TO SEE THE COBRA. HE WAS ASTONISHED AT THE SNAKE'S PLIGHT.



YOU LOOK SO  
THIN! HAVE YOU  
BEEN ILL?

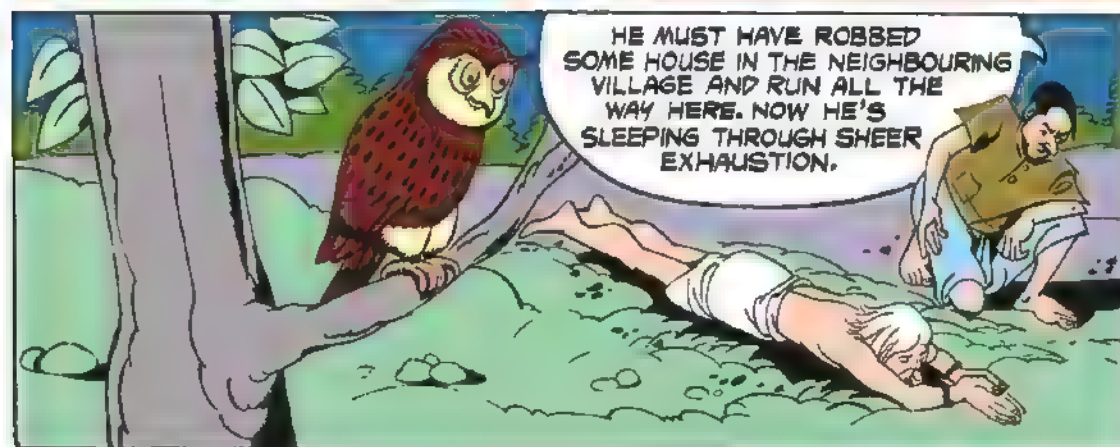
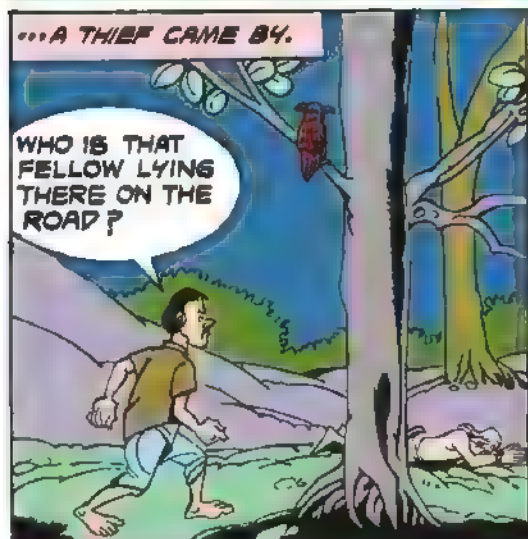
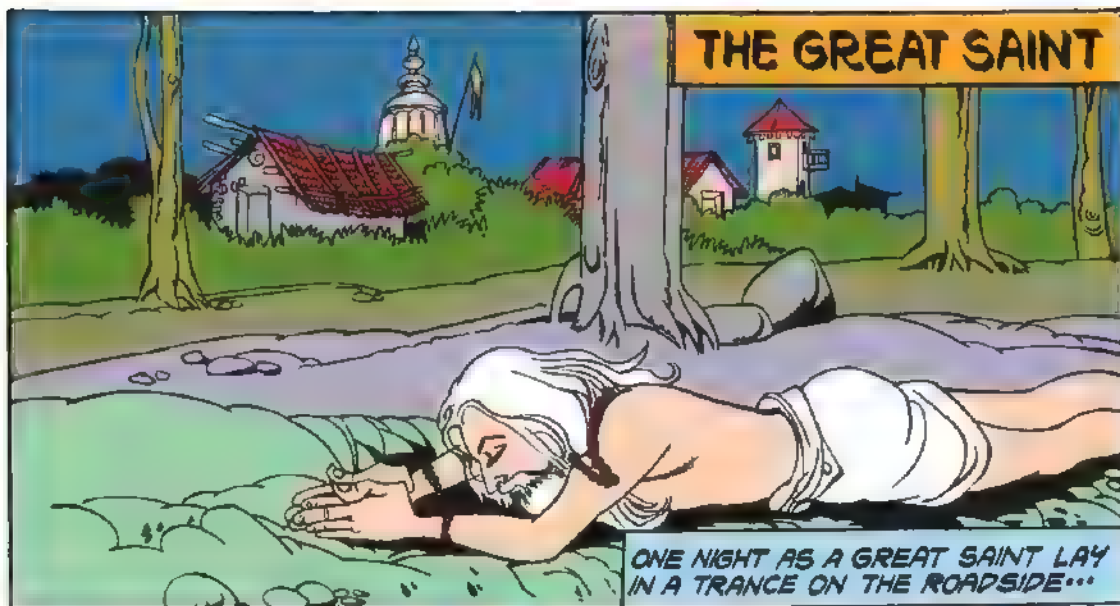


O GURU, YOU ASKED ME  
NOT TO HARM ANYONE. SO  
I HAVE BEEN LIVING ON LEAVES  
AND BERRIES. THAT MUST  
HAVE MADE ME  
THIN.



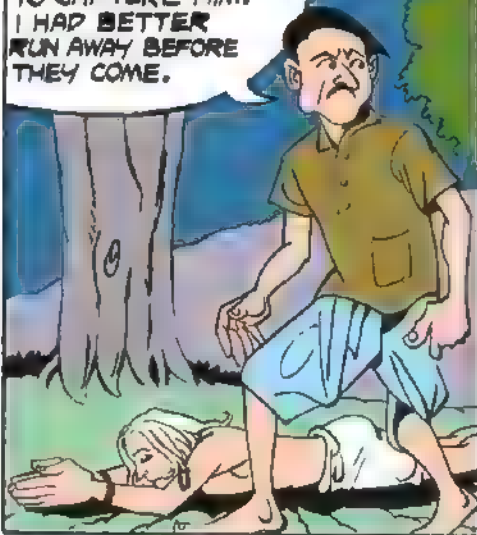








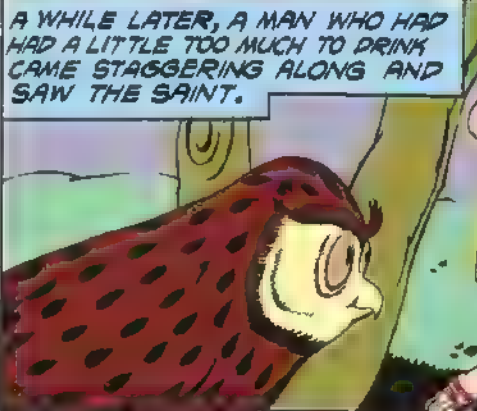
THE POLICE MAY  
ARRIVE ANY MOMENT  
TO CAPTURE HIM.  
I HAD BETTER  
RUN AWAY BEFORE  
THEY COME.



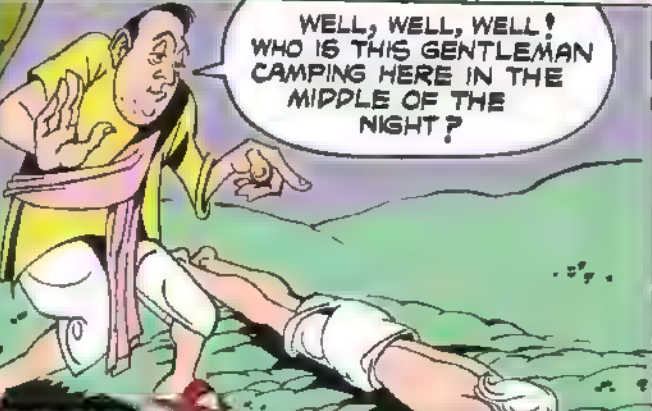
AND THE THIEF FLED.



A WHILE LATER, A MAN WHO HAD  
HAD A LITTLE TOO MUCH TO DRINK  
CAME STAGGERING ALONG AND  
SAW THE SAINT.



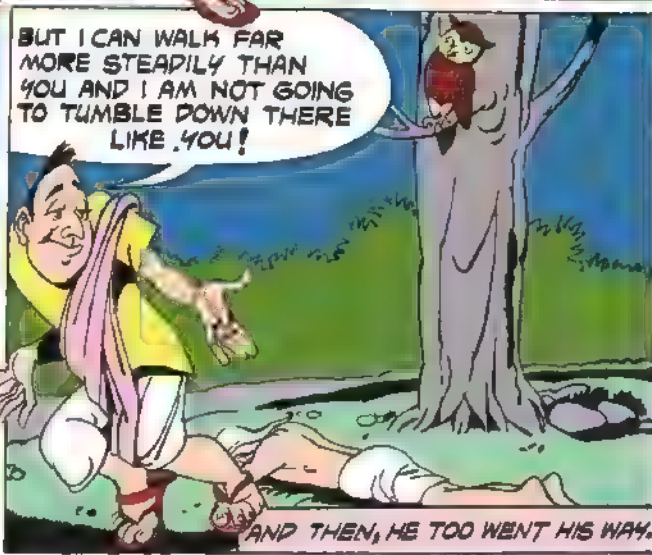
WELL, WELL, WELL!  
WHO IS THIS GENTLEMAN  
CAMPING HERE IN THE  
MIDDLE OF THE  
NIGHT?



AHA! MY FRIEND, I THINK  
YOU HAVE HAD A SIP TOO  
MUCH... AND YOU HAVE  
FALLEN INTO THIS  
DITCH.



BUT I CAN WALK FAR  
MORE STEADILY THAN  
YOU AND I AM NOT GOING  
TO TUMBLE DOWN THERE  
LIKE YOU!



AND THEN, HE TOO WENT HIS WAY.



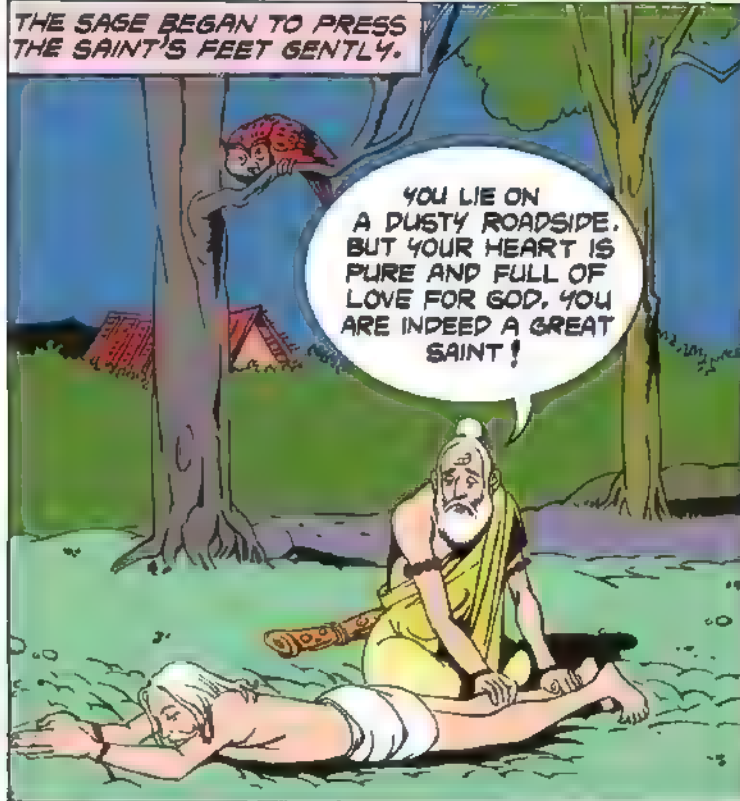
SOON, ANOTHER SAGE CAME THAT WAY.



WHO IS THIS? HIS FACE IS SERENE AND HIS HANDS ARE JOINED IN PRAYER. SURELY, THIS IS SOME NOBLE SAINT, LOST IN MEDITATION.



THE SAGE BEGAN TO PRESS THE SAINT'S FEET GENTLY.

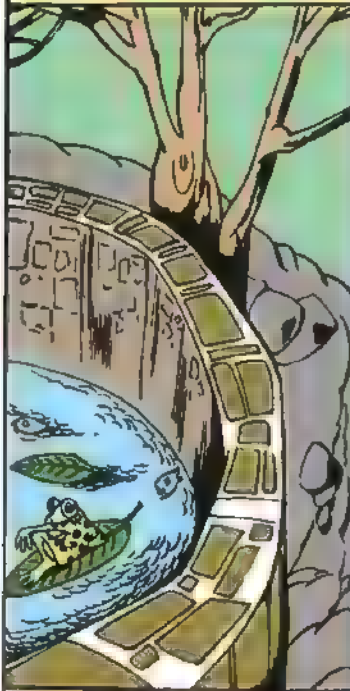


YOU LIE ON A DUSTY ROADSIDE, BUT YOUR HEART IS PURE AND FULL OF LOVE FOR GOD. YOU ARE INDEED A GREAT SAINT!

AND SO IS HE, FOR WE SEE IN OTHERS, WHAT WE ARE OURSELVES.



## THE TWO FROGS



THERE WAS ONCE A FROG WHO LIVED IN A WELL.

HE HAD LIVED IN THIS WELL ALL HIS LIFE AND KNEW VERY LITTLE OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD.



ONE DAY, ANOTHER FROG WHO WAS PASSING THAT WAY FELL INTO THE WELL.



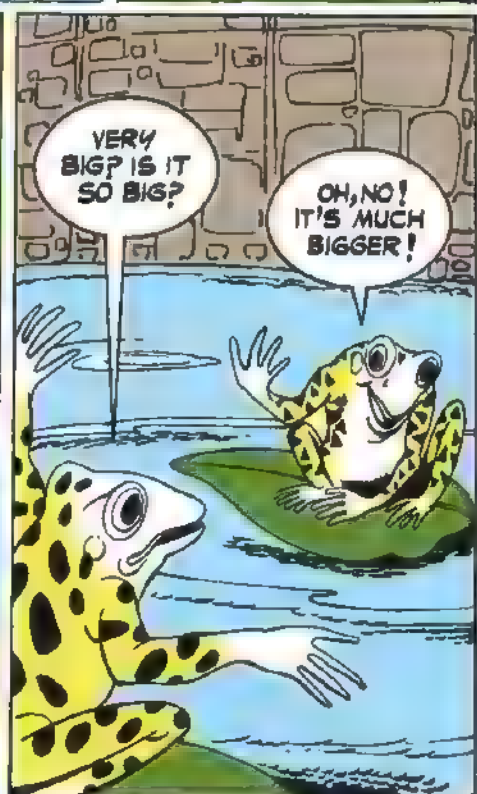
GOOD DAY!  
GOOD DAY!  
WHERE HAVE  
YOU COME  
FROM?

FROM THE  
RIVER, MY  
FRIEND.



THE  
RIVER? WHAT'S  
THAT?

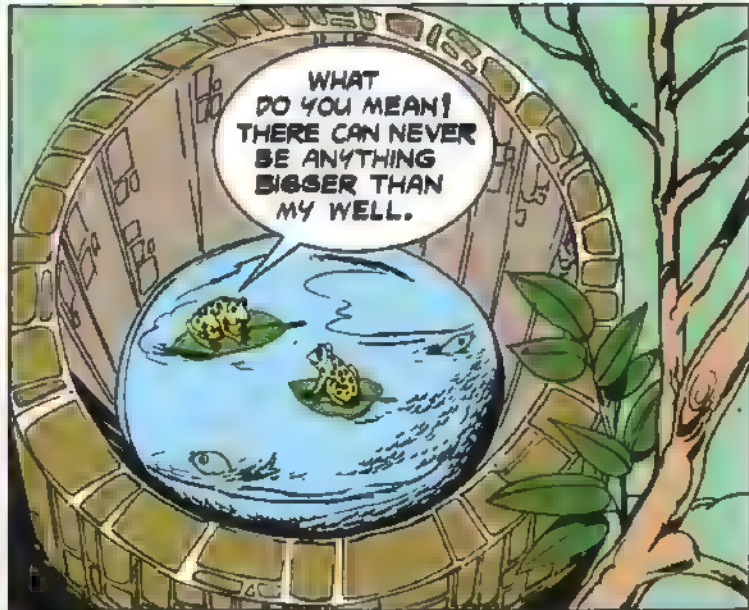
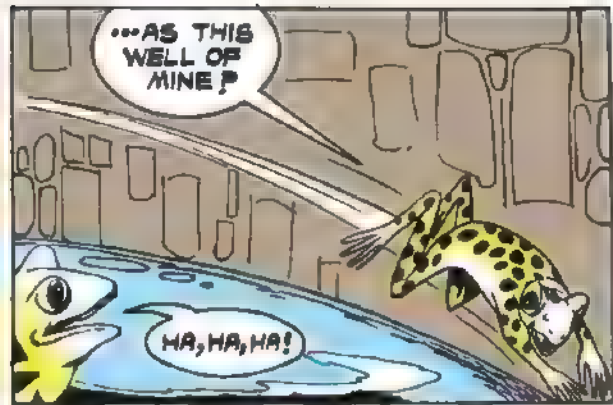
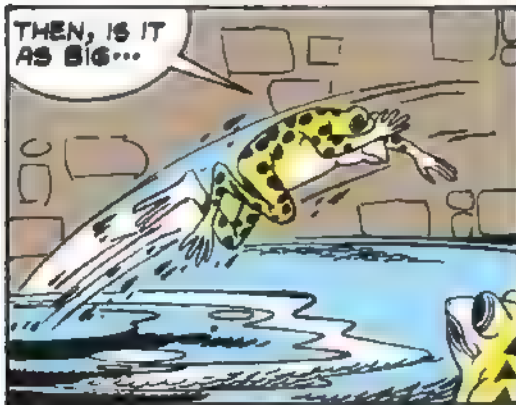
WELL...  
HOW SHALL  
I EXPLAIN IT?  
IT IS VERY,  
VERY BIG!



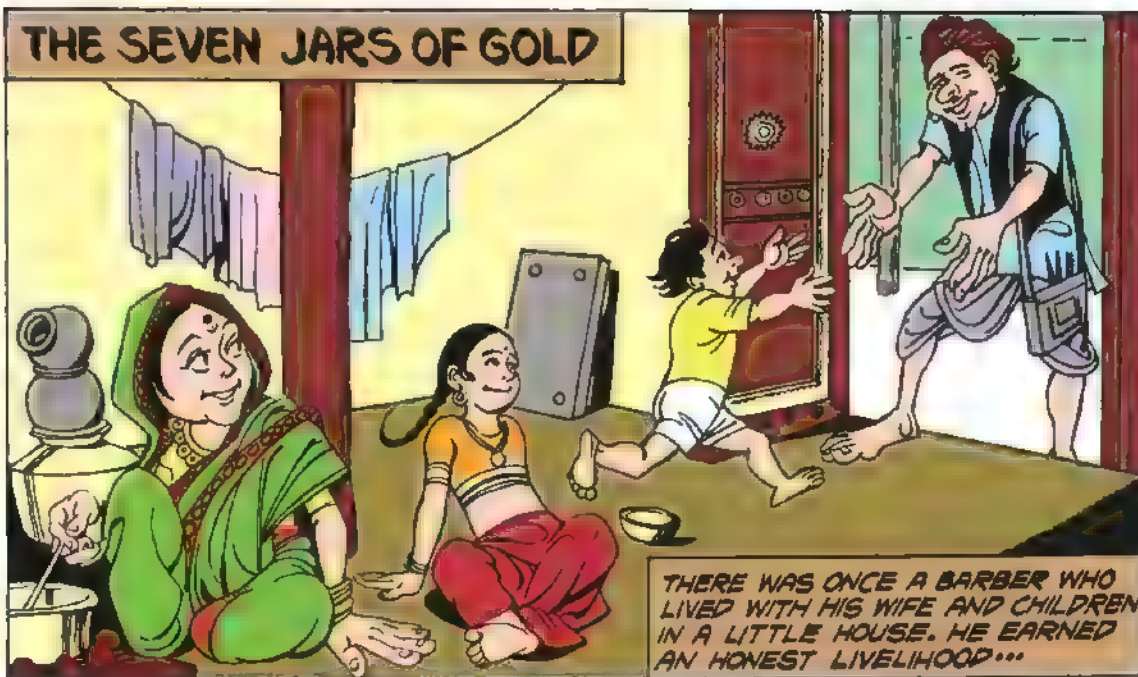
VERY  
BIG? IS IT  
SO BIG?

OH, NO!  
IT'S MUCH  
BIGGER!



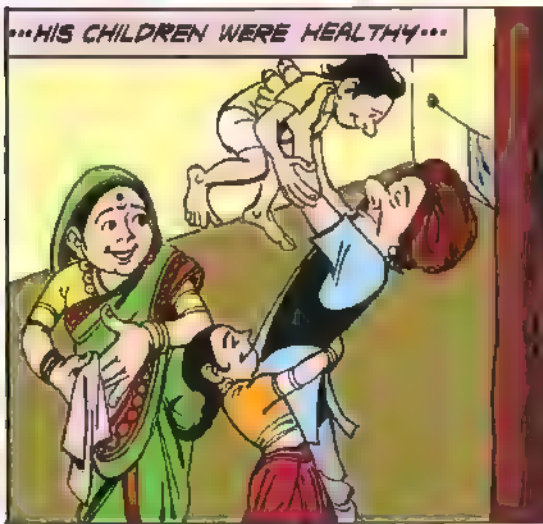


## THE SEVEN JARS OF GOLD

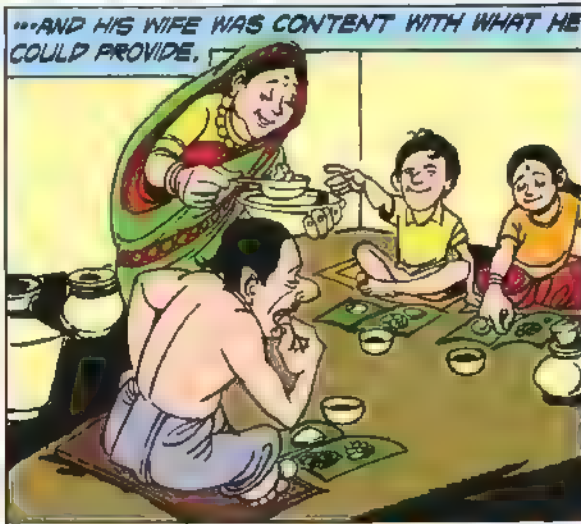


THERE WAS ONCE A BARBER WHO LIVED WITH HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN IN A LITTLE HOUSE. HE EARNED AN HONEST LIVELIHOOD...

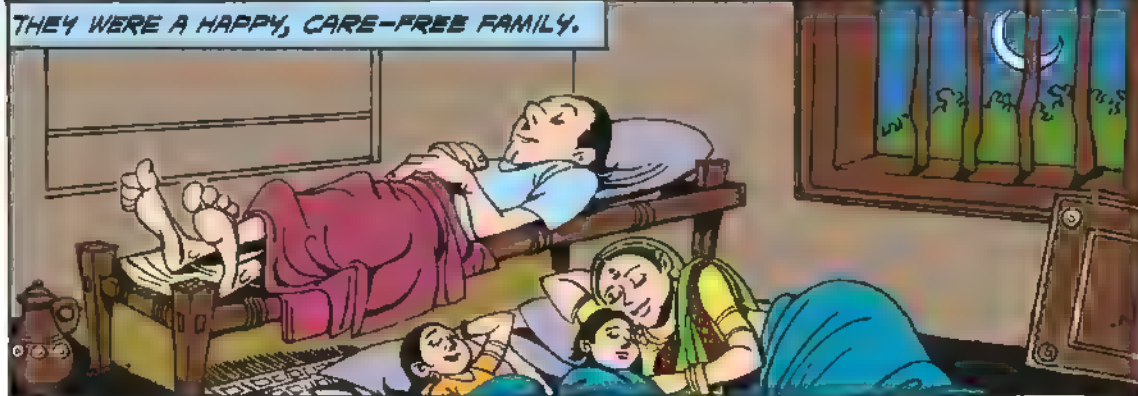
...HIS CHILDREN WERE HEALTHY...



...AND HIS WIFE WAS CONTENT WITH WHAT HE COULD PROVIDE.

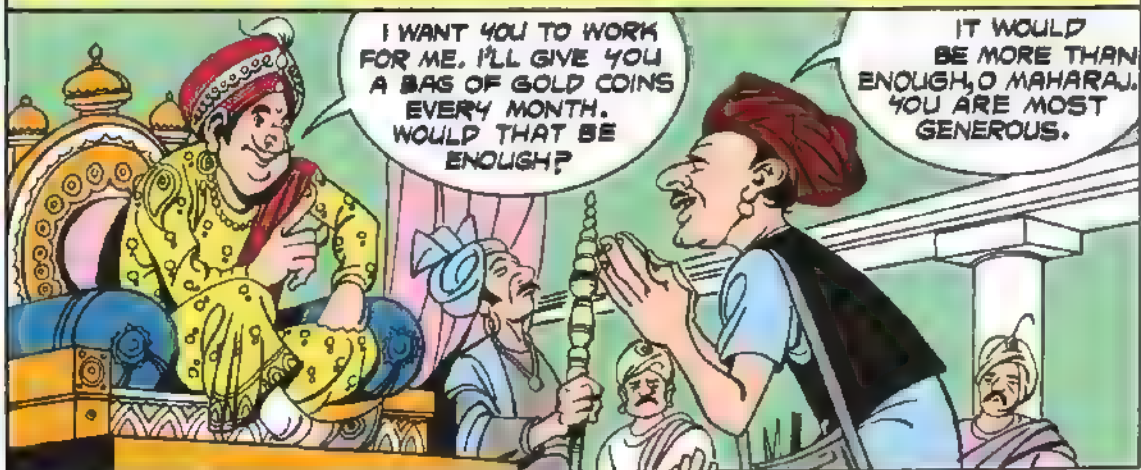


THEY WERE A HAPPY, CARE-FREE FAMILY.





ONE DAY, THE KING OF THE LAND SUMMONED THE BARBER TO HIS PALACE.



THE BARBER RETURNED HOME, FULL OF JOY.

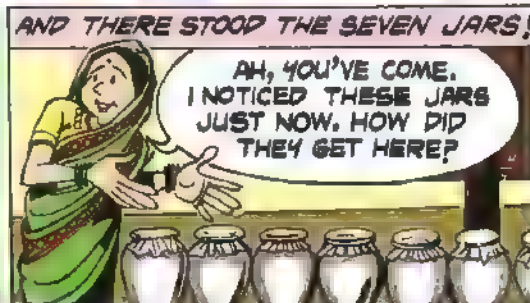
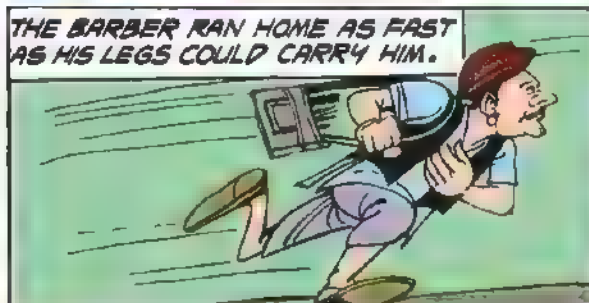
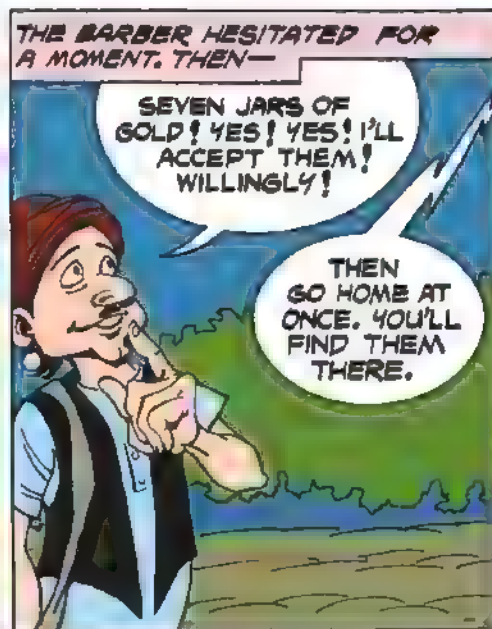
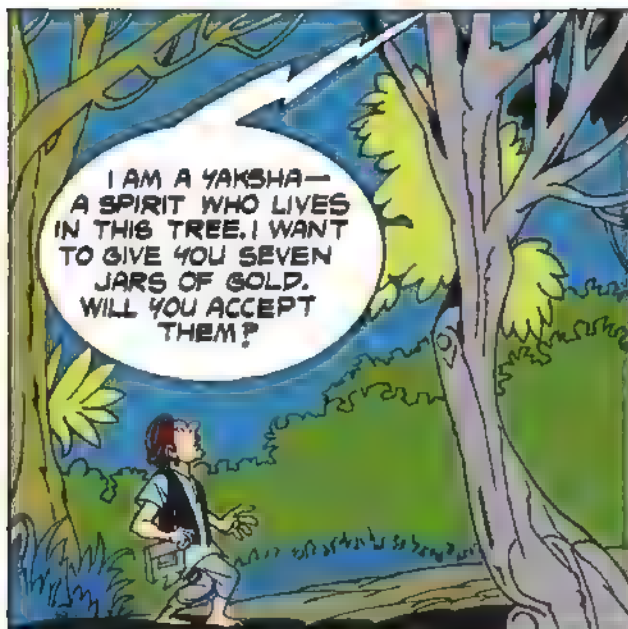


THE BARBER SERVED THE KING WELL AND THE KING IN TURN GREW QUITE FOND OF THE BARBER.



THEN, ONE NIGHT, THE BARBER HAPPENED TO PASS THROUGH A FOREST. IT WAS A STILL, DARK NIGHT. SUDDENLY —

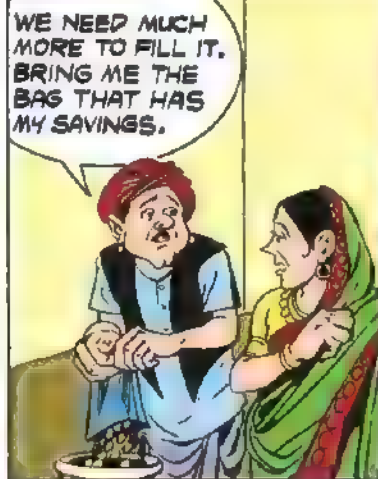




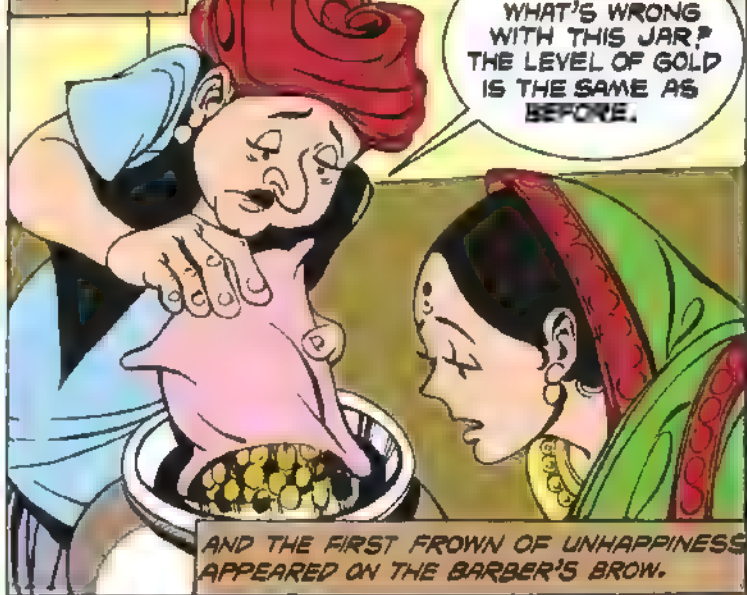




THE BARBER TOOK THE MONEY HE HAD GIVEN HIS WIFE TO RUN THE HOME, EXCHANGED IT FOR GOLD COINS, AND EMPTIED THEM INTO THE SEVENTH JAR. BUT—

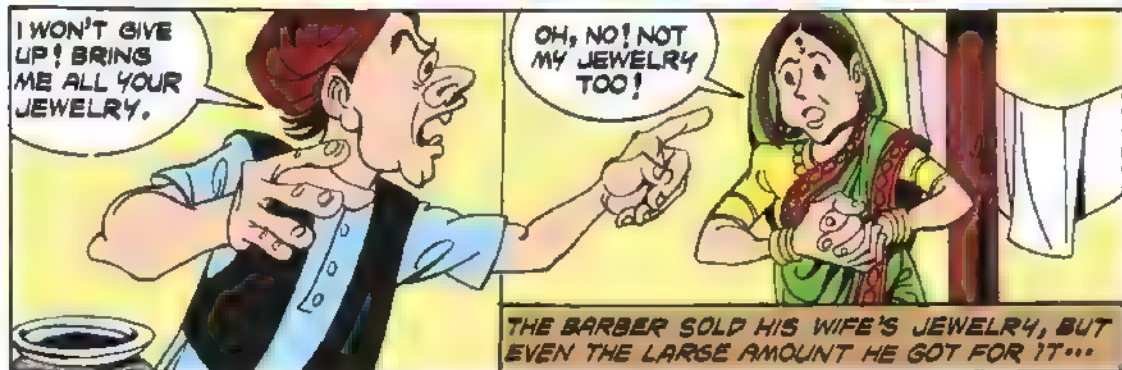
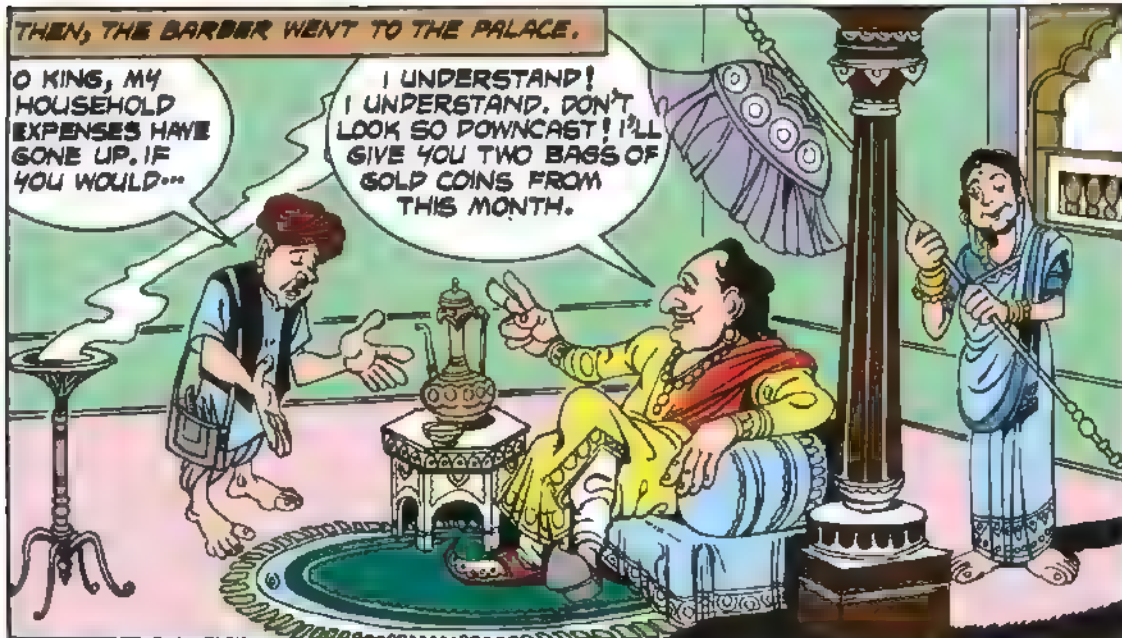


ALL THE MONEY THE BARBER HAD SAVED OVER THE YEARS WAS ALSO PUT INTO THE JAR. BUT, TO THE BARBER'S SURPRISE —



HE BEGAN TO BORROW FROM HIS FRIENDS.

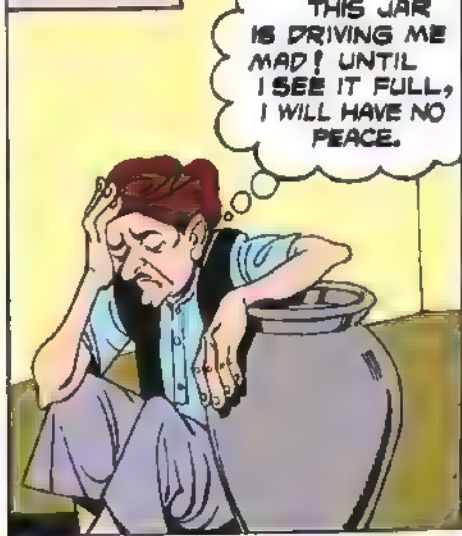






...WAS NOT ENOUGH FOR THE SEVENTH JAR. THE MORE IT WAS FED, THE GREEDIER IT SEEMED TO BECOME.

THIS JAR IS DRIVING ME MAD! UNTIL I SEE IT FULL, I WILL HAVE NO PEACE.



AND SO —

I'M STILL HUNGRY, MOTHER. CAN I HAVE SOME MORE?

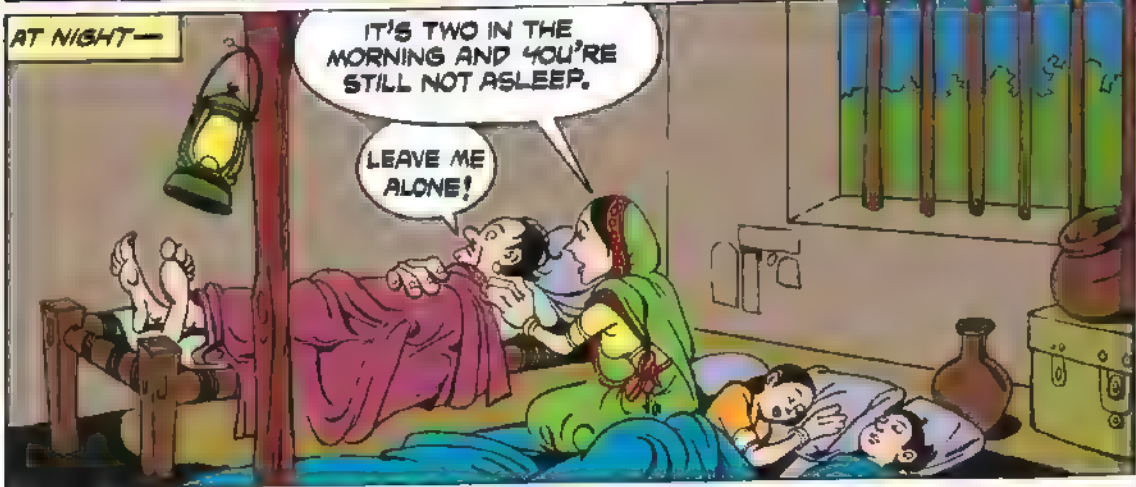
THERE ISN'T ANY LEFT, MY CHILD.



AT NIGHT —

IT'S TWO IN THE MORNING AND YOU'RE STILL NOT ASLEEP.

LEAVE ME ALONE!

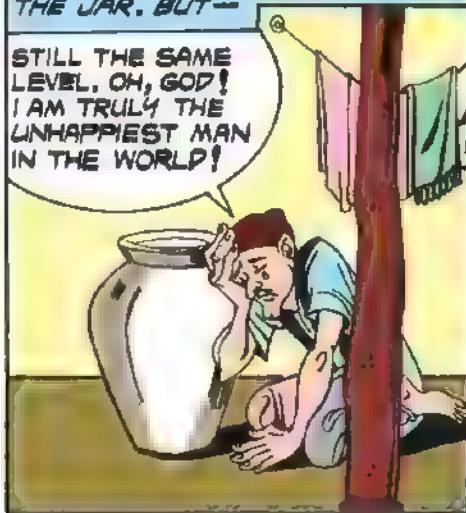


IF I SELL THE COW, I'LL GET A GOOD SUM. THE SILVER PLATES WILL ALSO FETCH A GOOD PRICE. I WILL ALSO SELL THE...



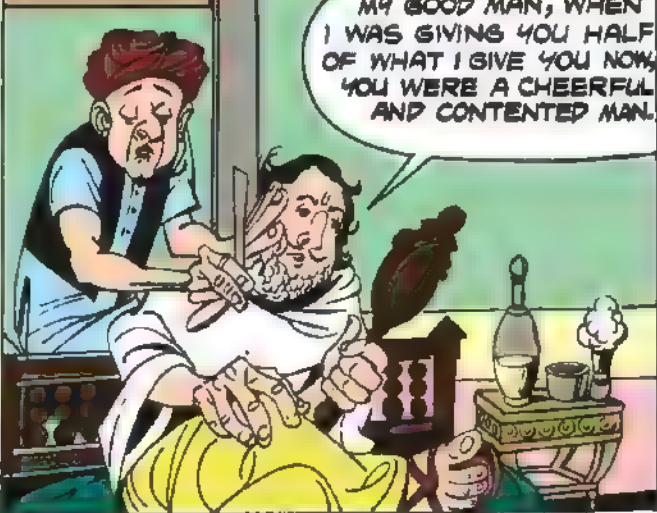
AND SO IT WENT ON. EVERY BIT OF MONEY THE BARBER COULD LAY HIS HANDS ON, WENT INTO THE JAR. BUT—

STILL THE SAME LEVEL. OH, GOD! I AM TRULY THE UNHAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD!



ALL THIS TIME, THE KING HAD BEEN NOTICING THAT THE BARBER WAS NO LONGER HIS OLD HAPPY SELF.

MY GOOD MAN, WHEN I WAS GIVING YOU HALF OF WHAT I GIVE YOU NOW, YOU WERE A CHEERFUL AND CONTENTED MAN.

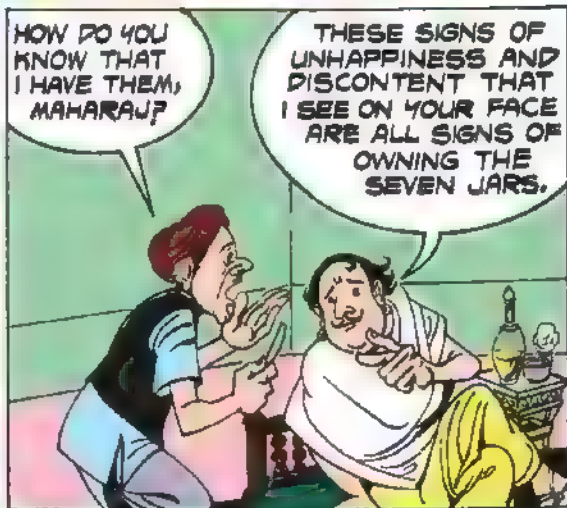


NOW YOUR FACE HAS A PERPETUAL FROWN. YOU SEEM TO BE MISERABLE. HAVE YOU BY ANY CHANCE GOT THE SEVEN JARS?



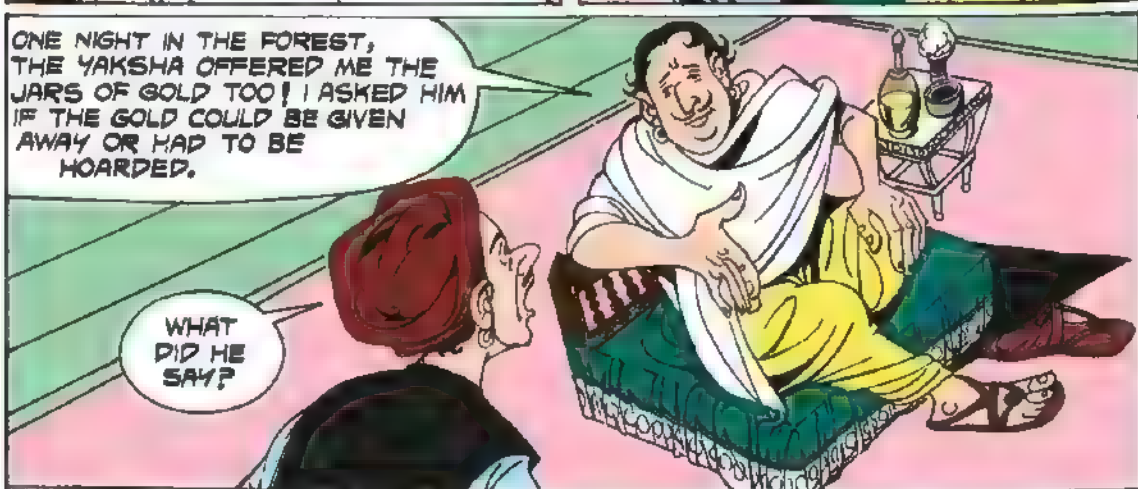
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT I HAVE THEM, MAHARAJ?

THESE SIGNS OF UNHAPPINESS AND DISCONTENT THAT I SEE ON YOUR FACE ARE ALL SIGNS OF OWNING THE SEVEN JARS.



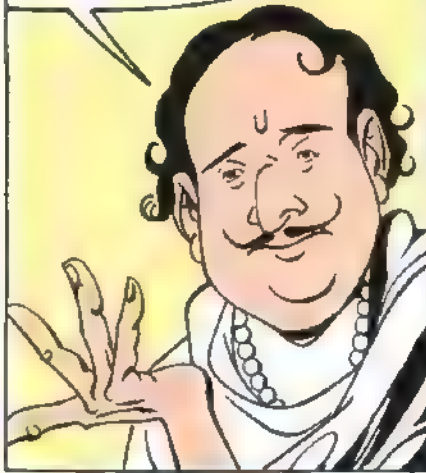
ONE NIGHT IN THE FOREST, THE YAKSHA OFFERED ME THE JARS OF GOLD TOO! I ASKED HIM IF THE GOLD COULD BE GIVEN AWAY OR HAD TO BE HOARDED.

WHAT DID HE SAY?





NOTHING. HE JUST RAN AWAY. HE KNEW I HAD FOUND HIM OUT! THE YAKSHA IS THE CUNNING TEMPTER OF MEN. THE SEVENTH JAR IS THE JAR OF DESIRE. ITS THIRST FOR GOLD CAN NEVER BE QUENCHED.



OH, WHAT A FOOL I HAVE BEEN!



THE BARBER RAN TO THE FOREST.

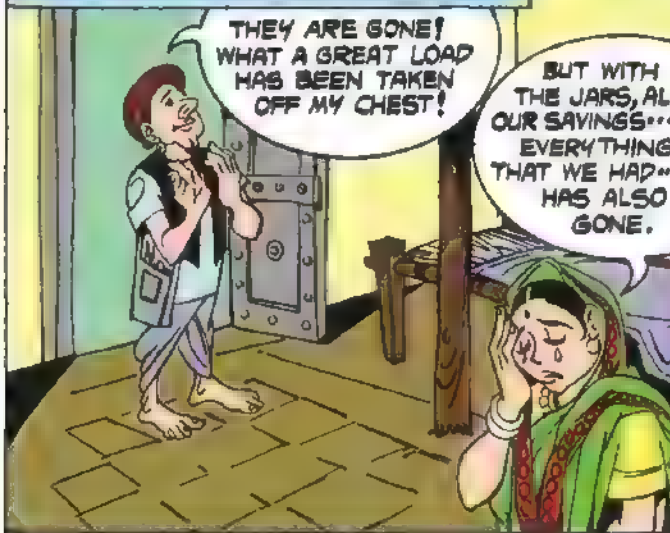


O YAKSHA! TAKE BACK YOUR JARS, I BEG YOU! I DON'T WANT THEM ANY MORE.



ALL RIGHT, GO HOME, FOR THEY HAVE ALREADY VANISHED.

WHEN THE BARBER REACHED HOME—



THEY ARE GONE! WHAT A GREAT LOAD HAS BEEN TAKEN OFF MY CHEST!

BUT WITH THE JARS, ALL OUR SAVINGS... EVERYTHING THAT WE HAD... HAS ALSO GONE.



NEVER MIND. I AM STILL HALE AND HEARTY. LET US MAKE A FRESH START. TRULY, THERE IS NOTHING BETTER THAN A SIMPLE LIFE... A HAPPY LIFE!

# THE MAN WHO WANTED TO DIG A WELL



A MAN ONCE SET OUT TO DIG A WELL.

HE SELECTED A GOOD SPOT AND CHEERFULLY SET TO WORK.



LA, LA,  
LA, LA...

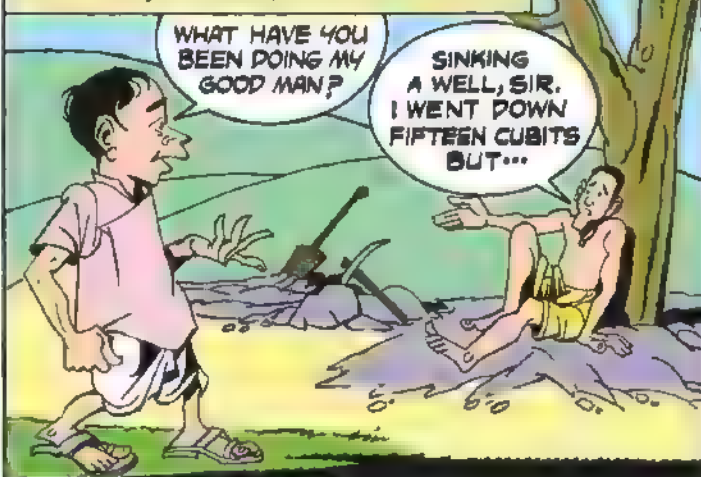


PHEW!  
NO SIGN  
OF WATER,  
YET.



I'LL REST  
FOR A WHILE  
AND THEN  
CONTINUE.

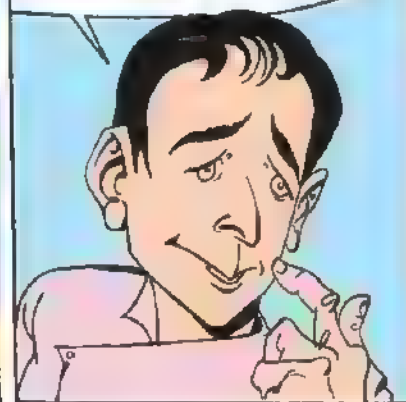
JUST THEN, ANOTHER MAN CAME ALONG.



WHAT HAVE YOU  
BEEN DOING MY  
GOOD MAN?

SINKING  
A WELL, SIR.  
I WENT DOWN  
FIFTEEN CUBITS  
BUT...

OH! I WISH I HAD PASSED THIS  
WAY EARLIER. I WOULD HAVE  
TOLD YOU WHERE TO DIG.  
ANYWAY, COME WITH ME.







HERE WE ARE! DIG HERE AND I ASSURE YOU, YOU WILL STRIKE WATER WITHIN MINUTES.

THANK YOU, SIR. I WILL START RIGHT AWAY.



AND SO—



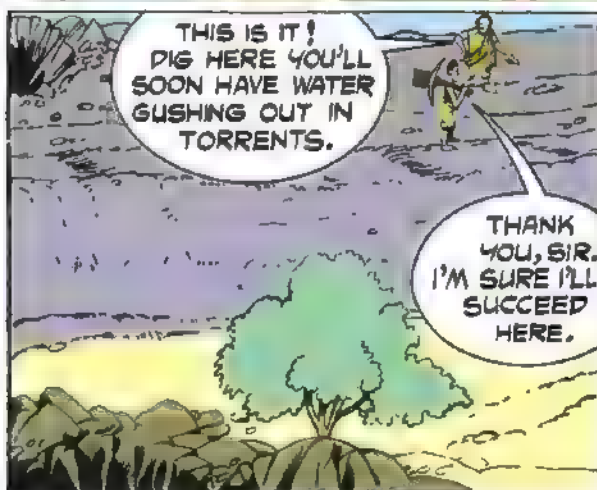
HOURS LATER—

OOOOF! TWENTY CUBITS DEEP! AND HE SAID I WOULD STRIKE WATER WITHIN MINUTES. MINUTES! HAH!



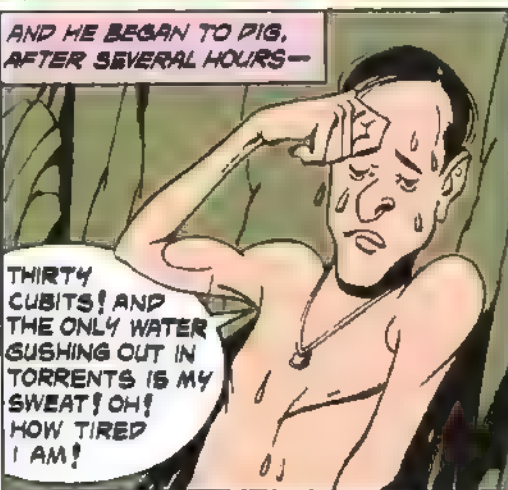
SOON YET ANOTHER MAN CAME ALONG.

DIGGING A WELL, ARE YOU? WHAT MADE YOU DIG HERE, OF ALL PLACES? I KNOW THE BEST SPOT.



THIS IS IT! DIG HERE YOU'LL SOON HAVE WATER GUSHING OUT IN TORRENTS.

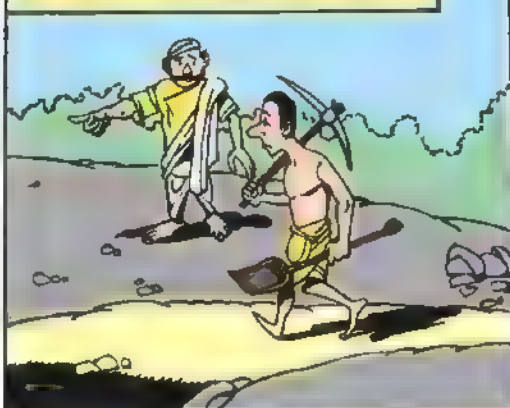
THANK YOU, SIR. I'M SURE I'LL SUCCEED HERE.



AND HE BEGAN TO DIG, AFTER SEVERAL HOURS—

THIRTY CUBITS! AND THE ONLY WATER GUSHING OUT IN TORRENTS IS MY SWEAT! OH! HOW TIRED I AM!

THOUGH WATER WAS SCARCE,  
ADVISERS WERE NOT. ON THE  
ADVICE OF ANOTHER PASSERBY...



...THE MAN SUNK TWENTY MORE CUBITS AT  
ANOTHER SPOT.



BUT—

NOT EVEN  
A TRICKLE?  
I AM SICK OF  
THE WHOLE  
BUSINESS!



JUST THEN, A FRIEND CAME  
BY AND HEARD THE WHOLE  
STORY.

...SO, CAN  
YOU IMAGINE,  
I HAVE SUNK  
EIGHTY-FIVE CUBITS  
ALTOGETHER.

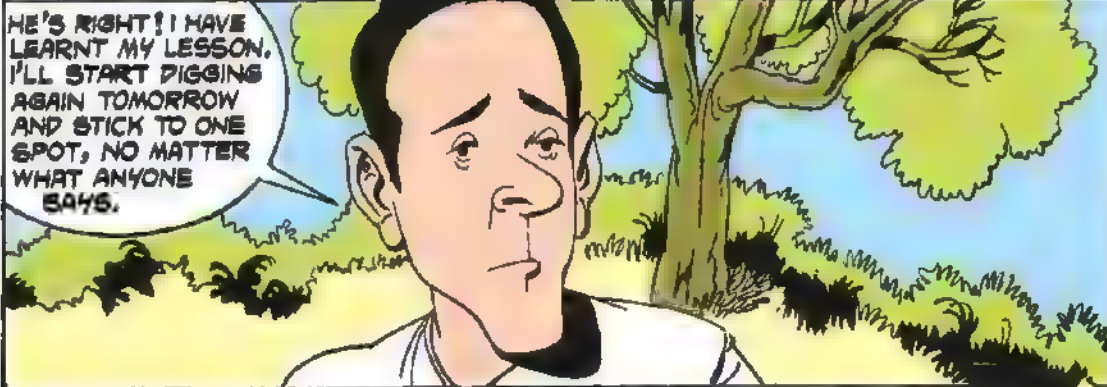
EIGHTY-FIVE  
CUBITS?



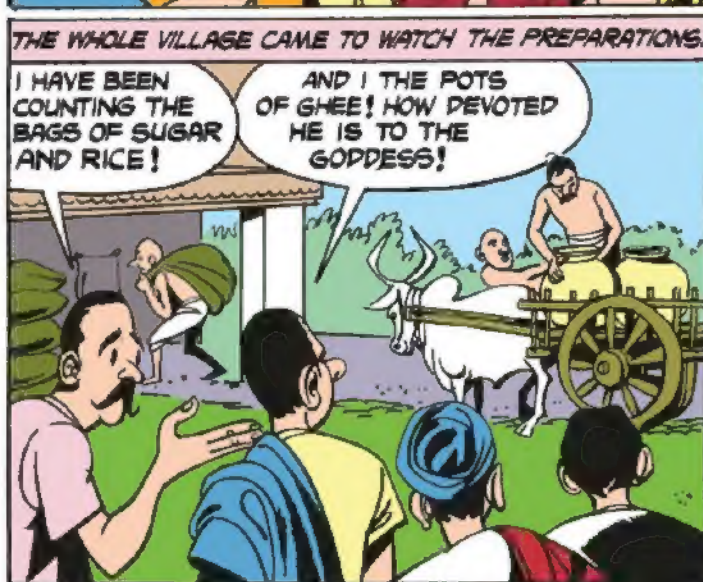
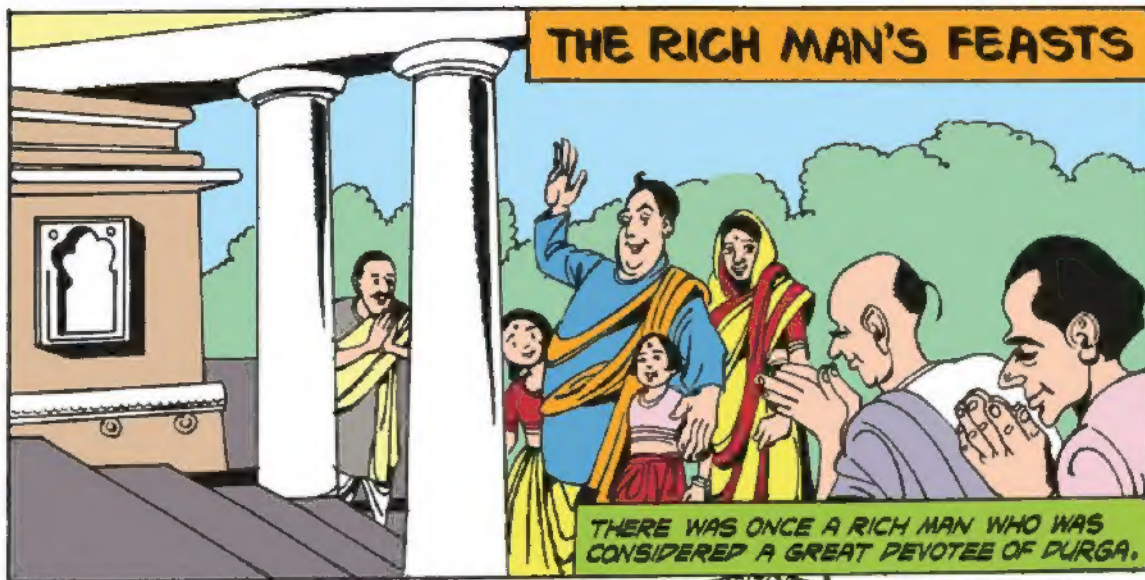
IF YOU HAD SUNK THOSE  
EIGHTY-FIVE CUBITS IN ONE  
PLACE, YOU WOULD HAVE  
STRUCK WATER ANYWHERE  
IN THIS AREA, EVEN BELOW  
THAT ROCKY SURFACE.



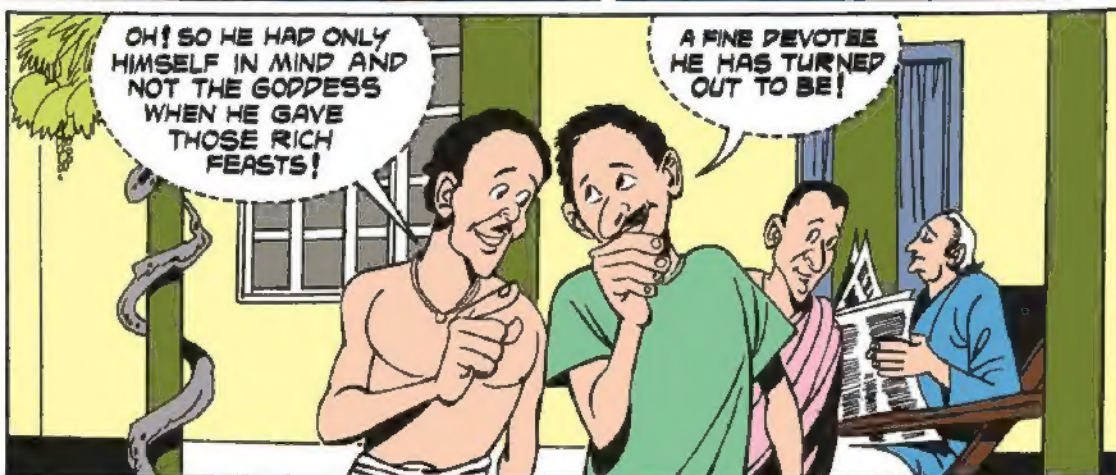
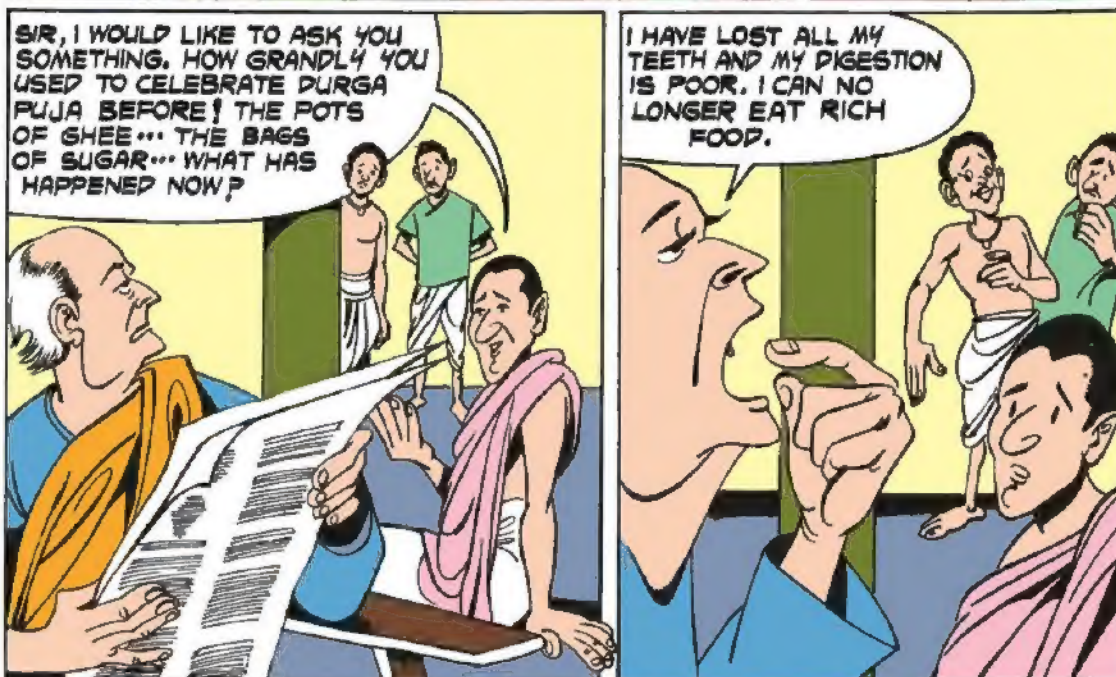
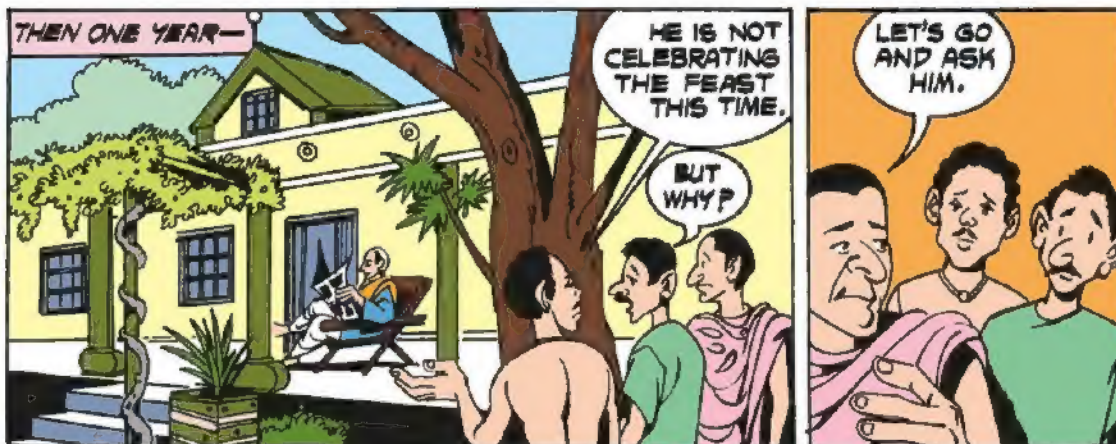
HE'S RIGHT! I HAVE  
LEARN'T MY LESSON.  
I'LL START DIGGING  
AGAIN TOMORROW  
AND STICK TO ONE  
SPOT, NO MATTER  
WHAT ANYONE  
SAYS.













## WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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Agastya  
Andhaka  
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Bheema And Hanuman  
Bheeshma  
Chandrarhasa  
Dasharatha  
Dhruva And Ashvakra  
Draupadi  
Drona  
Elephanta  
Gandhari  
Ganesha  
Ganesha And The Moon  
Ganga  
Garuda  
Ghatotkacha  
Hanuman  
Hanuman To The Rescue  
Harischandra  
Heroes Of Hampi  
Indra And Shachi  
Indra And Shibi  
Indra And Vritra  
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Jayadratha  
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Karna  
Karttikeya  
Konark  
Krishna  
Krishna And Jarasandha  
Krishna And Narakasura  
Krishna And Rukmini  
Krishna And Shishupala  
Krishna And The False  
Vasudeva  
Kubera  
Kumbhakarna  
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Mahiravana  
Nachiketa  
Nahusha  
Nala Damayanti  
Pareekshit  
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Prabhavati  
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Purushottam Dev And  
Padmavati  
Rama  
Ravana Humbled  
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Tales Of Yudhishtira  
Tapati  
Tharjavur  
The Churning Of The  
Ocean  
The Gita  
The Golden Mongoose  
The King In  
A Parrot's Body  
The Lord Of Lanka  
The Pandava Princes  
The Pandavas In Hiding  
The Parijata Tree  
The Sons Of Rama  
The Symantaka Gem  
Tirupall  
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Vali  
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Yayati

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Dayananda  
Deshtandhu  
Chittaranjan Das  
Eknath  
Fa Hien  
Ghanshyamdas Birla  
Guru Arjan  
Guru Gobind Singh  
Guru Har Gobind  
Guru Nanak  
Guru Tegh Bahadur  
Huen Tsang  
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Hothel  
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Monkey Stories  
Nandi Vishala  
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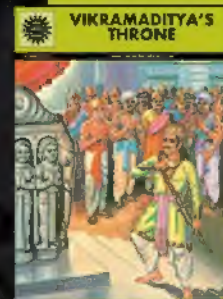
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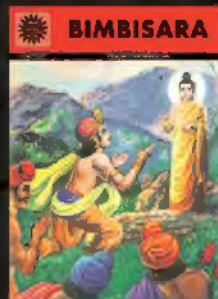
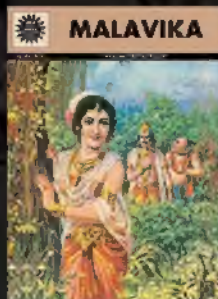
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